



**African Academy for Deep Sea Diplomacy: Leadership in Deep Sea Governance
Side Event**

Opening Remarks by

Madam Leticia Carvalho

Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority

Kingston, Jamaica, 29 July 2026



His Excellency Mr. Oumarou Chinmoun, Secretary-General of the Ministry
of External Relations of Cameroon,

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His Excellency Ambassador Michel Tommo Monthe, Permanent
Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations and the International
Seabed Authority,

Distinguished members of the high-level delegation of Cameroon,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Members of the first ADSEA session,

Colleagues and friends,

Good afternoon.

Allow me first to acknowledge, in his absence, His Excellency Daniel Urbain Ndongo, Director of the International Relations Institute of Cameroon.

I had the pleasure of meeting him in Yaoundé earlier this year, when I travelled to Cameroon to open the first in-person workshop of ADSEA. His leadership and support have been central to the programme from the beginning.

I remember the seriousness and energy in the room. Participants from all five African subregions worked through practical exercises and simulations based on the negotiations that take place here at the Authority. They tested arguments, negotiated texts and applied what they had learned online.

I was also very pleased to see so many women taking part. This is something I care deeply about. I hope to see many of them representing their countries and helping to shape decisions in these very rooms.

I left Cameroon confident in the participants and in the support behind this programme. Today, I am delighted to see some of them here in

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Kingston, representing their delegations and putting into practice what they studied and simulated in Yaoundé.

Let me thank the Government of Cameroon and the International Relations Institute of Cameroon. Their leadership and partnership made ADSEA possible.

I also thank the contributors to the ISA Partnership Fund, whose support made this first session possible.

African States helped shape Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement. That contribution must

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continue. African expertise needs to be present and heard as decisions concerning the Area are taken.

ADSEA helps meet this need.

The first session brought together 26 African diplomats and officials through online and in person training. They can now help prepare national positions, advise governments and contribute to delegations. Together, they form a pool of expertise that African Member States can draw upon.

I encourage governments to make full use of this expertise. I also hope the participants will maintain the connections they have built and continue to learn from one another.

The response to the first session has been very encouraging. The demand for more is clear. We need future sessions, and we need more African countries to participate.

That requires funding.

The Partnership Fund has shown what it can make possible. I invite Member States and partners in a position to do so to contribute to the

Fund and help replenish it. This will allow ADSEA to reach more African States and build a lasting source of expertise for deep sea governance.

I also encourage African Member States to put forward candidates when future opportunities are announced. Institutions and partners can support the programme by sharing expertise and developing new forms of cooperation.

To the members of the first session, congratulations.

I look forward to hearing your reflections today and to seeing this network continue to grow.

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Thank you.

