



Event Programme

Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SSKI): Advancing Deep-Sea Biodiversity Knowledge through Global Partnership

Side Event at the 31st Session of the ISA Assembly

Date: 28 July 2026

Time: 14:00 – 15:00 (UTC-05:00)

Venue: Delegates Dining Room

Programme

Time	Topic	Speakers
14:00–14:05	Opening remarks	Ms. Leticia Carvalho Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority
14:05–14:10	<i>Short video featuring testimonials from SSKI beneficiaries</i>	Ms. Luciana Genio Moderator and Environmental Coordinator, ISA Secretariat
14:10–14:25	SSKI in Action	
	<i>Building a new generation of deep-sea taxonomists</i>	H.E. Ms. Marianne Ziss , Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the ISA, France
	<i>Accessing high-quality data as a cornerstone of ocean governance</i>	H.E. Ms. Ellen De Geest , Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belgium in Kingston, Belgium
	<i>Accelerating deep-sea biodiversity knowledge through international cooperation</i>	Mr. Carl Grainger , Legal Counsellor, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
14:25–14:30	Interactive Q&A: priorities for enhancing global knowledge of deep-sea biodiversity	Ms. Luciana Genio Moderator and Environmental Coordinator, ISA Secretariat
14:30–14:50	Scaling Impact and Partnerships <i>Leveraging ISA regional networks to strengthen the science-policy interface</i>	Mr. Daniel Breger , Joint Head, Ocean Policy Unit, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
		Ms. Maria Luís Mendes , Legal Advisor, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN, Portugal
		Mr. Sandip Kumar Mukhopadhyay , Scientist G, Ministry of Earth Sciences, India
		Mr. Piotr Byczkowski , Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and The Cayman Islands, European Union
14:50–14:55	Interactive Q&A: opportunities to strengthen SSKI partnerships	Ms. Luciana Genio Moderator and Environmental Coordinator, ISA Secretariat
14:55–15:00	Call to action and closing remarks	Mr. Hyun Tae Kim President, National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK), Republic of Korea