



Information concerning ISA's cooperation with other instruments, frameworks and bodies

The International Seabed Authority (“the Authority”) is the organization through which States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“UNCLOS”) organize and control all mineral-resources-related activities in the international seabed Area (“the Area”), particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area. In so doing, the Authority has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area.

- The Authority is mandated for cooperation with other instruments, frameworks and bodies:
 - All international organizations carrying out activities in the Area are required to ensure conformity with Part XI of the Convention (UNCLOS Article 139).
 - The Authority is mandated to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area, and shall coordinate and disseminate the results of such research and analysis, when available; States Parties have the obligation to promote international cooperation in marine scientific research in the Area (UNCLOS Article 143).
 - The Authority is required to cooperate with other competent international organizations on development and transfer of marine technology (UNCLOS Article 278).
 - The Authority is mandated to take necessary measures with respect to activities in the Area to ensure effective protection of human life. To this end, the Authority is mandated to adopt appropriate rules, regulations and procedures to supplement existing international law as embodied in relevant treaties (UNCLOS Article 146).
 - The Authority is mandated to provide assistance from the Economic Assistance Fund to affected developing land-based producer States, where appropriate, in cooperation with existing global or regional development institutions having the infrastructure and expertise to carry out such

assistance programmes; the purpose of the cooperation is to assist developing countries which suffer serious adverse effects on their export earnings or economies resulting from a reduction in the price of an affected mineral or in the volume of exports of that mineral caused by activities in the Area (UNCLOS Article 151.10 with several important modifications to the implementation of that provision by the 1994 Agreement, Annex, Section 7).

- The Assembly of the Authority is mandated to initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of promoting international cooperation concerning activities in the Area [UNCLOS Article 160.2.(j)].
- The Council of the Authority is mandated to enter into agreements with the United Nations or other international organizations on behalf of the Authority and within its competence, subject to approval by the Assembly [UNCLOS Article 162.2(f)].
- The Secretary-General of the Authority, on matters within the competence of the Authority, is mandated to make suitable arrangements, with the approval of the Council, for consultation and cooperation with international and non-governmental organizations recognized by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UNCLOS Article 169, Rule 76 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council).
- The Legal and Technical Commission of the Authority in the exercise of its functions, is entitled to consult, where appropriate, another commission, any competent organ of the United Nations or of its specialized agencies or any international organizations with competence in the subject-matter of such consultation (UNCLOS Article 163(13), Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission).
- Summary of cooperative arrangements with such instruments, frameworks and bodies
 - The Authority has reached **agreements** with the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Labour Organization; the Authority has reached **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO), the International Cable Protection Committee, the OSPAR Commission, the Pacific Community, the Asian-African Legal and Consultative Organization, the Indian Ocean RIM Association and the African Union.
 - Those agreements and MoUs were all signed by the Secretary-General of the Authority and corresponding officers of related organizations, and approved by their respective governing bodies.

- Except for the agreement with the United Nations, which comprehensively defines the relationship between the two organizations, the cooperative arrangements set out provisions on consultation and cooperation, participation in meetings of their respective governing bodies, exchange of information and entry into force. Some also include provisions on financial implications, privileges and, immunities and facilities, amendments and termination.
- Related hyperlinks
 - The text of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Part XI Agreement could be accessed to via https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm.
 - The Rules of Procedure of the Council of the International Seabed Authority could be accessed to via <https://www.isa.org.jm/rules-of-procedure/>.
 - The Rules of Procedure of the Legal and Technical Commission could be accessed to via https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/isba_6_c_9_rop_of_ltc.pdf.
 - The text of relevant agreements and MoUs could be accessed to via <https://www.isa.org.jm/legal-documents/>.

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