



INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Kingston, 27 November 2019

Dear Mr Trepelkov and Ms Goette-Wanli,

Contribution of the International Seabed Authority to the background note requested by the General Assembly through its resolution 73/292.

I wish to refer to your letter of 1 October 2019 inviting the International Seabed Authority to provide inputs on the draft outline of the United Nations Secretary-General's background note as requested by General Assembly through its resolution 73/292 of 9 May 2019.

Appended herewith is the contribution of the Secretariat of the Authority which we authorize to be made available on the website of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

Allow me to reiterate the support of the Authority to the successful delivery of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference and in line with this, the importance attached to our fruitful and ongoing cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Michael W. Lodge

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ANNEX:

CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

TO THE

BACKGROUND NOTE REQUESTED BY UNGA THROUGH ITS RESOLUTION 73/292.

I. Introduction

1. This contribution by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) is made in response to the invitation to submit inputs to the background note requested by the General Assembly through its resolution 73/292 of 9 May 2019.
2. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) established the International Seabed Authority as the only international organization mandated to control and regulate seabed activities in the international seabed area (the Area) for the benefit of mankind as a whole.
3. As outlined in the Strategic Plan of ISA for 2019-2023¹, the mission of ISA is, *inter alia*, “to be the organization through which States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea organize and control activities in the Area, which is the common heritage of mankind, to promote the orderly, safe and responsible management and development of the resources of the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole, including through the effective protection of the marine environment and contributing to agreed international objectives and principles, including the Sustainable Development Goals”.
4. Although all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are of relevance to the work of ISA (see **appendix 1**), of most relevance is SDG14. Of the ten indicators or targets for SDG 14, ISA makes relevant contributions towards the achievement of SDG Target 14.2 (“Sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems”), SDG Target 14.5 (“Marine protected areas and effective management plans”), SDG Target 14.7 (“Increase the economic benefits to small island developing states and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources”) as well as SDG Target 14.(a) (“Increase scientific knowledge, develop capacity and transfer marine technology”) and SDG Target 14.(c) (“Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”).

¹ ISBA/24/A/10.

II. Activities, challenges and opportunities for the implementation of SDG14

5. As stated in the overview of the context and challenges faced by ISA in the Strategic Plan for 2019-2023², one of the challenges for the Organization is to contribute to the timely and effective implementation of SGDs and, in particular, SDG 14 (*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*), through the implementation of the economic, environmental and social mandates assigned to it under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS (1994 Agreement). These mandates include: ensuring that activities in the Area are carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole³; ensuring effective protection for the marine environment from activities in the Area⁴ and of human life with respect to activities in the Area⁵; promoting and encouraging the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area⁶; and promoting the effective participation of developing States in activities in the Area⁷.

a- Target SDG 14.2 - Sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems and strengthening resilience

6. A critical part of ISA's mandate is to promote the orderly, safe and responsible management and development of the resources of the international seabed area (the Area) for the benefit of mankind as a whole. In so doing, ISA has the duty to adopt appropriate rules, regulations and procedures to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from mineral exploration and exploitation in the Area.

7. The ISA has adopted three sets of exploration regulations in respect of the three main types of minerals found in the Area. The ISA is now in the process of developing the exploitation regulations. These regulations, once adopted, will incorporate specific provisions to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment, including biological diversity and ecological integrity, human health and safety and equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefits.

8. Efforts to develop the regulations commenced in 2015 and are expected to culminate in the adoption of the regulations in 2020. Work on the associated necessary standards and guidelines is expected to continue in 2020 and beyond. Stakeholders involved include all members of the ISA, relevant and interested UN bodies, international and regional organizations, the scientific community, academia, non-governmental organizations and contractors. The Regulations, when operational, will have global applicability and will cover all the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

b- Target SDG 14.5 - Marine protected areas and effective management plans

9. The legal regime set out in UNCLOS for activities in the Area is based on a careful balance of rights and obligations in the interest of all mankind. At the core of this regime is the duty for ISA and its member States to protect the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from these

² ISBA/24/A/10.

³ UNCLOS, art.140(1).

⁴ UNCLOS, art.145.

⁵ UNCLOS, art.146.

⁶ UNCLOS, art.143.

⁷ UNCLOS, art. 148.

activities. Accordingly, and pursuant to article 145 of UNCLOS, ISA is required to develop necessary measures and tools to provide for the effective protection and preservation of the marine environment. This includes measures for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution and other hazards to the marine environment, including the coastline, and of interference with the ecological balance of the marine environment; and the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment.

10. One of the tools used to achieve such objective is the development of Regional Environmental Management Plans (REMPs). The first REMP for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone was adopted by ISA in 2012 on the basis of a recommendation by the Legal and Technical Commission. The plan included the designation of a network of nine Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (APEIs) to be representative of different habitat types and where no mining will take place. Collectively, these APEIs cover 1.6 million km² and represent one of the largest application of area-based management on earth and are a testament of ISA's commitment to ensure protection and conservation of the deep seabed.

11. During its 24th session (2018), the ISA Council took note of a preliminary strategy for the development of REMPs for the Area for key provinces where exploration activities were already underway⁸. This preliminary strategy was formally endorsed by the Council at its 25th session (2019)⁹. The Council agreed that the priority areas were the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the Indian Ocean triple junction ridge and nodule - bearing province, as well as the north-west Pacific and South Atlantic for seamounts. The Council also noted that the preliminary strategy laid out a coherent and coordinated approach to the process and considered it essential that, inter alia, plans be developed in a transparent manner under the auspices of ISA, in the light of its mandate under UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement. Since then, the ISA Secretariat has been mandated by ISA Members through the ISA High-Level Action Plan 2019-2023¹⁰ to develop and implement a standardized approach for the design and development of REMPs. This approach is now implemented through a series of workshops focusing on reviewing the scientific information and describing potential management measures to support the development of REMPs in priority regions identified.

c- Target 14.7 ("Increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources")

ISA is required to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits, taking in particular consideration the interests and needs of developing States.

d- Target 14(a) Increase scientific knowledge, develop capacity and transfer marine technology

12. The contribution of ISA to the implementation of Target 14(a) needs to be considered in the context of its responsibilities under UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement. Pursuant to article 143(2) of UNCLOS, ISA has been entrusted with carrying out marine scientific research concerning the Area and its resources, and promoting and encouraging the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area, as well as with the coordination and dissemination of the results of scientific research and

⁸ ISBA/24/C/3 and ISBA/24/C/8, para.9.

⁹ ISBA/25/C/17.

¹⁰ ISBA/25/A/15.

analysis, when available ¹¹. As part of its responsibilities, ISA also has the duty to encourage appropriate programmes to be designed and implemented to respond to the needs and priorities of developing States with a view to (i) strengthening their research capabilities, (ii) training their personnel in the techniques and applications of research and, (iii) fostering the employment of their qualified personnel¹². The ISA is also entrusted by UNCLOS to facilitate the transfer of marine technology and scientific knowledge with regard to activities in the Area in order for the Enterprise and all States Parties to benefit from it¹³.

13. As of today, more than 300 individuals from developing States have benefited from the capacity-building schemes (Contractor Training Programme, Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research, Internships). Further successful results are expected with the implementation of a new series of programmes and projects as well as with the establishment of regional training centres such as the one established by ISA and the Ministry of Natural Resources of China, in Qingdao, in 2019, in light of Parts XI, XIII and XIV of UNCLOS.

e- Target 14.c - Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

14. UNCLOS established a comprehensive legal regime within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, including in relation to the sustainable use of marine mineral resources for the benefit of mankind as a whole. The role of ISA to that end is at the core of such regime.

15. The ISA is not only the sole forum where States Parties to UNCLOS cooperate to administer the mineral resources of the Area, it is also the only organization mandated to ensure equitable access to and sharing of the benefits arising from the exploitation of the resources of the Area, and protection of the marine environment from activities in the Area.

16. Since it came into existence 25 years ago, ISA has carried out highly valuable work that contributes to the effective implementation of international law as reflected in UNCLOS. A very good illustration is to be found in the development of a highly comprehensive set of rules, regulations and procedures dealing with prospecting and exploration for mineral resources in the Area. A major effort currently underway is the development of exploitation regulations. This will provide the necessary framework for regulating and managing exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the Area in a sustainable and a comprehensive manner.

17. Despite the fact that much has been done, some legal and implementation gaps remain. First, universal participation is still yet to be achieved. For instance, 12 of the 32 LLDCs are not yet Party to UNCLOS and accordingly, Party to ISA. Also, with respect to universality, they are still 18 States that have not ratified the 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention. Moreover, few States have made the required deposits permanently describing the outer limits of their continental shelves up to and beyond 200 nautical miles in accordance with Part VI of the Convention and only 10 States have fulfilled their obligation to deposit charts of list of geographical coordinates

¹¹ UNCLOS, art.143 (2).

¹² UNCLOS, art.143(3).

¹³ UNCLOS, art.144, 273, 274 and 1994 Agreement, Annex, Section 5(b) and (c).

with the Secretary-General of ISA in accordance with article 84 of the Convention. This results in uncertainty concerning the actual spatial extent of the Area.

III. Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation

18. Several initiatives are currently undertaken by ISA to discharge effectively its responsibilities including in partnership with the IOC-UNESCO. All these initiatives are based on the specific mandate given by UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement to ISA as well as on the ISA Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 as adopted by ISA Assembly in 2018¹⁴. The latter contains eight strategic directions with substantial implications for advancing marine scientific research in the Area. As such, the 168 members (167 member States and the European Union) of ISA, through Strategic Direction 4, have established the vision of ISA for the five years to come in relation to the promotion and encouragement of marine scientific research in the Area. This vision is now being implemented according to the elements contained in the High-Level Action Plan formally adopted by ISA Assembly in July 2019¹⁵, which identifies twelve high-level actions and fourteen associated outputs. Most of them, if not all, have a direct relationship with the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and should therefore be taken into consideration (see relevant extract in **appendix 2**).

19. In its efforts to advance marine scientific research, ISA has launched in July 2019, the first ever open access global database to specifically centralize deep-seabed related data and information collected in the Area. It is called DeepData [<https://data.isa.org.jm/isa/map/>]. Through it, ISA will be able to effectively ensure the dissemination of the results of scientific research and analysis, when available.

IV. Development of partnerships for the implementation of SDG14 through voluntary commitments

20. The ISA registered seven Voluntary commitments at the 2017 UN Ocean Conference aimed at achieving concretely one or more goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Five are directly oriented to reinforce ISA's efforts toward developing countries and in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed countries (LDCs), and Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

a- Enhancing the role of women in marine scientific research through capacity-building (#OceanAction15467)

21. The work undertaken by ISA thus far to develop meaningful capacity-building opportunities for developing States is widely considered as exemplary. Nonetheless, ISA is committed to deepen the effectiveness and impact of its capacity development work by proactively seeking to enhance the role of women in marine scientific research. This is currently achieved through participation in different capacity-building opportunities, such as contractor training, the Endowment Fund, internships and others. Today, women who wish to engage further in marine scientific research still face real and substantial challenges that are specific to their gender. Because of its understanding of the real and tangible benefits to advance development progress by fully including women in marine science, the ISA believes that increasing their participation through capacity-building could

¹⁴ ISBA/24/A/10.

¹⁵ ISBA/25/A/15.

effectively contribute to the enhancement of the scientific and technological capabilities of developing States, and in particular those of SIDS and LDCs. Accordingly, the ISA is resolved to:

- raise awareness on the importance of the role of women in marine scientific research and of the concrete additional benefits accruing to societies and economies of doing so; and
- give preference, when possible, to qualified female applicants, in particular from developing countries.

Partners: Member States, Contractors, Research Entities, UN agencies, Academia

SDG14 targets covered: 14.2, 14.7, 14.a, 14.c

b- Encouraging dissemination of research results through the ISA Secretary-General Award for Deep-Sea Research Excellence (#OceanAction15796)

22. The ISA is explicitly mandated to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area¹⁶, and accordingly, the coordination and dissemination of the results of such research analysis. In line with this, the ‘ISA Secretary-General Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research’ has been established to recognize and encourage the achievements of young researchers from developing States who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge of the deep-sea environment and improve the development of sound and efficient regulatory frameworks.

23. The inaugural edition of the ISA Secretary-General Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research occurred in 2018 at the 24th Session of the Assembly of ISA. Dr Diva Amon, Deep sea biologist from Trinidad & Tobago was cited for her extensive research and exploration experience at sea. For the second edition, in 2019, the Award was given to Dr Mauricio Shimabukuro from Brazil for his extensive work on the ecology of the South Atlantic.

Partners: Government of Monaco.

SDG14 targets covered: 14.2, 14.5, 14.a, 14.c

c- Improving the assessment of essential ecological functions of the deep sea oceans through long-term underwater oceanographic observatories in the Area (#OceanAction17746)

24. Efforts to discriminate natural variation from anthropogenic impacts in nature are not possible without a long-term assessment of essential environmental variables. This is crucially important for a sustainable management plan for mineral resources in the Area.

Since the registration of this Voluntary Commitment, further consultations were held with scientific community and experts and it has been decided to direct efforts of ISA and partners towards engaging deep ocean observation communities.

Partners: ISA/Member States/Scientific community **SDG14 targets covered:** 14.2, 14.a

¹⁶ UNCLOS, art.143.

d- Enhancing deep sea marine biodiversity assessment through the creation of online taxonomic atlases linked to deep sea mining activities in the Area (#OceanAction17776)

25. The lack of deep sea marine taxonomy is a major impediment for assessing deep sea marine biodiversity. First, existing lists of species collected in the deep sea do not provide the required information to undertake basic ecological assessment of deep sea biodiversity. Second, such scientific gap increases the risk that the required environmental management plans that need to be developed will not address effectively the vulnerability of deep sea habitats of the Area.

26. In view of the above, the ISA is committed to work towards the establishment of public accessible atlases regrouping scientifically classified species collected on the international seabed area. These atlases will be defined by habitat according to the different types of minerals that are explored. Accordingly, specific atlases will be produced to reflect the specificities of each ocean basin.

Partners: Contractors – Research Institutions

SDG14 targets covered: 14.2, 14.a

e- Abyssal initiative for Blue Growth (#OceanAction16538)

27. This Voluntary Commitment is operationalized through a 2-year project (2018-2020) currently implemented by ISA in partnership with UNDESA, the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Commonwealth Secretariat. It was initially conceived with the aim of strengthening the capacity of Pacific Sponsoring States (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and Tonga) for them to access sustainably and benefit from their engagement in the Area, and then to make sure that it will contribute to the development of their Blue Economy. This project has two main objectives: (i) ensuring that the Pacific Sponsoring States are in a position to comply with their national and international obligations as seabed activities progress, (ii) that the necessary governance structures and mechanisms required are in place in order to achieve these objectives in an effective manner.

Partners: UNDEA-SPC-Commonwealth Secretariat

SDG14 targets covered: 14.2, 17.7, 14.a, 14.c

f- Fostering cooperation to promote the sustainable development of Africa's deep seabed resources in support to Africa's Blue Economy (#OceanAction16374)

28. Africa is the world's second largest and second-most-populous continent. It covers approximately 30.3 million Km² and is bordered by the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, as well as by the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Described as a big Island Continent, Africa has 38 out of its 54 States as coastal States.

29. The wealth of natural resources includes living and non-living marine resources that are to be found in the oceans and seas surrounding the African Continent, has led to a growing interest in the sustainable development of the African Blue Economy. This is reflected in the African Union (AU) 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy (January 2014), in the Africa's Blue Economy: A

Policy Handbook (UNECA, March 2016) and in the African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development, adopted by the African Heads of State in October 2016.

30. The Africa Deep Seabed Resource Project, which has been designed to operationalise this Voluntary Commitment, aims at contribution to the sustainable development of Africa's Blue Economy by informing decision-making processes of African States on the activities undertaken in the Area and by strengthening the technical capacities of national experts, including women scientists.

Partners: African Union - NORAD

SDG14 targets covered: 14.2, 14.a, 14.c

g- *Mapping the Blue Economy of Africa to support decision-making, investment and governance of activities undertaken on the continental shelf and in adjacent international seabed areas (#OceanAction16494)*

31. The availability and quality of marine geospatial information is also essential to ensuring transparency in decision-making processes and management of marine natural resources and related activities. The more accessible and reliable the information is, the lower is the risk to invest in emerging activities, particularly if sufficient information has been made accessible to the civil society which in return has given its social licence to proceed.

32. The Project Atlas of the African Blue Economy is a collaborative activity proposed by the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), GRID-Arendal (Norway) and ISA. The initial objective was for this project to be implemented in cooperation with the African Union Commission and Parties of the UNCLOS, which have developed activities and collected data and information in the Atlantic, the Indian and the Pacific oceans, as well as in the Mediterranean sea and in the Red Sea.

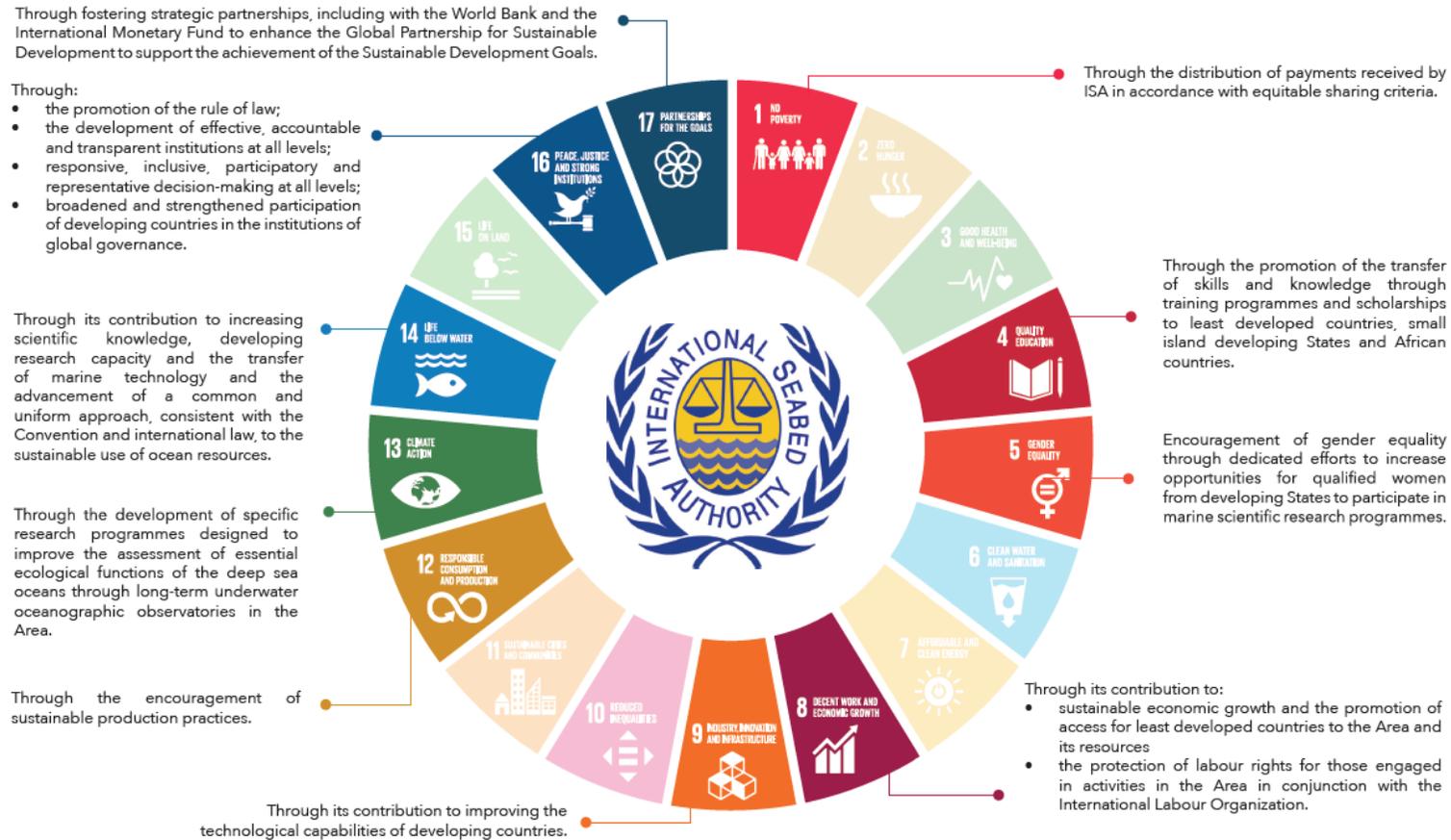
33. The Project is designed: (i) to gather, assemble, integrate and make available in a single standardized geospatial database all the available and non-commercially sensitive/confidential data and information on the geology, mineral resources and environment of the African continental shelf and adjacent international seabed areas; and (ii) to enhance a sustainable process of exchange, update, analysis and dissemination of geological, mineral and environmental information that are necessary to implement the Blue Economy concept in Africa.

Partners: ISA

SDG14 targets covered: 14.c

Appendix 1: Contribution of ISA to the achievement of the SDGs

Contribution of ISA to the achievement of the SDGs



Appendix 2: relevant extracts of the ISA High-level Action Plan 2019-2023

No.	High-level action	Description	Outputs for 2019–2023			
			Time frame for completion	Organs ¹⁷ responsible	Associated organs	Coordinating organs
Strategic direction 1: realize the role of the Authority in a global context						
1.2.2	Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the planning and implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, in particular on matters relating to the conduct of marine scientific activities in the Area	Make an effective contribution to the planning of activities during the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and ensure that appropriate attention is given to the need to promote international cooperation for marine scientific research in the Area	2020	Assembly	Secretariat	
Strategic direction 4: promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area						
4.1.1	Actively promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research with respect to activities in the Area	Build collaborative initiatives to strengthen marine scientific research infrastructure in the Area	Continuous	Assembly	Council and secretariat	
4.1.2	Promote and encourage research related to the environmental effects of activities in the Area	Facilitate long-term observation programmes for monitoring the environment and the development of environmentally sound technology in the Area	Continuous	Assembly		
4.1.3	Establish strategic alliances and partnerships with Governments,	Create a collaborative network of scientific institutions to support	2019	Secretariat		

¹⁷ The following definitions apply: (a) “responsible organ”: the entity who is the main driver of the action in question and who is ultimately accountable, (b) “coordinating organ”: the entity who collaborates with the responsible organ driving the action, playing a substantive role to ensure inclusiveness and convergence, (c) “Associated organ”: the entity who is involved in the action by remaining actively engaged and well informed.

	international organizations, contractors, and other relevant stakeholders to advance research related to the environmental effects of activities in the Area	the collection, analysis and archiving of environmental information and the development of long-term observation systems				
4.2.1	Enhance the collection, compilation, analysis and synthesis of research results and analysis, when available, in particular from contractors, including through the Authority's database as the principal repository for data and information related to the deep seabed and associated water column	Facilitate standardized approaches for taxonomic identification among contractors	2020	Secretariat		
4.2.2	Ensure the dissemination of research results and analysis, when available, in a timely manner	(i) Collect and disseminate environmental baseline data collected by contractors	2019	Secretariat		
		(ii) Implement the Authority's data management strategy	2019	Secretariat		
		(iii) Expand taxonomic atlases for deep seabed and water column organisms	Continuous	Secretariat		
4.3.1	Establish and enhance partnerships for improved sharing of data and information	Integrate non-confidential environmental information with the Ocean Biogeographic Information System of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	2019	Council	Secretariat	

4.3.2	Raise awareness of the Authority's database as the primary repository for data and information related to the deep seabed and associated water columns, and its potential contribution to the advancement of global knowledge and understanding of the deep sea, including in the context of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development	Launch the Authority's database	2019	Secretariat		
4.3.3	Build-up, enhance and expand the Authority's database and facilitate the production of data analysis and synthesis, through partnerships with various scientific partners	Develop data visualization tools for multiple stakeholders	Continuous	Secretariat		
4.4.1	Promote and strengthen partnerships with the international scientific community, including by involving it in workshops and technical publications	Co-organize workshops on the synthesis of scientific and environmental data and information and the assessment of data gaps from different mineral provinces	2019	Secretariat		
4.4.2	Promote and facilitate access to non-confidential information and data related to the marine environment	Request data from external users	2019	Secretariat		
4.5.1	Compile summaries of the status of environmental baseline data	Perform periodic (five-year) reviews of the status of environmental baseline data	2023	Legal and Technical Commission	Secretariat	
4.5.2	Develop processes to assess the environmental implications of activities in the Area and disseminate and publish, as appropriate, the results of any such assessment	Publish technical reports on the environmental risk assessments of activities in the Area	2020	Secretariat		

Strategic direction 5: build capacity for developing States

5.1.1	Assist developing States, in particular geographically disadvantaged States, small island developing States, least developed countries and land-locked developing countries, in identifying their needs	(i) Report on initiatives developed to facilitate the identification of the needs of developing States	2020	Secretariat	
		(ii) Collect input on the identification of the emerging needs of developing States, in particular geographically disadvantaged States, small island developing States, least developed countries and land-locked developing countries	2020	Secretariat	
		(iii) Develop a capacity-building strategy for the Authority that addresses the needs identified by developing States	2020	Secretariat	Assembly
5.1.2	Adjust capacity-building programmes as necessary to meet the needs of developing States	(i) Make adjustments to address the needs identified by developing States	2020	Secretariat	
		(ii) Recommend specific measures to address the needs identified by developing States	2020	Secretariat	
5.1.3	Undertake regular assessments of the effectiveness and relevance of capacity-building programmes and initiatives implemented by the Authority	(i) Report on key findings of the assessments undertaken	2020	Secretariat	Assembly
		(ii) Recommend specific measures to improve the delivery of capacity-building programmes and measures implemented by the Authority	2020	Secretariat	Assembly

5.2.1	Promote and strengthen partnerships with Governments, international organizations and the private sector to maximize funding opportunities and in-kind contributions for the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and its beneficiaries	Report on partnerships established to maximize funding opportunities for the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and its beneficiaries	Annual	Secretariat	Assembly	
5.2.2	Participate in global financing mechanisms to foster funding opportunities for the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and its beneficiaries	No output against this action	Continuous	Secretariat		
5.3.1	Promote, prioritize and implement capacity-building measures in all projects and activities, as far as practicable, implemented by the Authority, alone and in partnership, with an emphasis on the needs identified by developing States	(i) Ensure the dissemination of and access to all information on capacity-building opportunities on the Authority's website	Continuous	Secretariat		
		(ii) Ensure that all the Authority's projects and activities, as far as practicable, contain a dedicated capacity-building component	Continuous	Secretariat		
		(iii) Develop and implement measures and process that ensure the selection of the best qualified candidates	Continuous	Secretariat		Legal and Technical Commission
		(iv) Promote and develop excellence in deep sea research among young scientists and researchers from developing States through the Secretary-General's awards	Continuous	Secretariat		
5.4.1	Undertake regular assessments of contractors' training programmes and	(i) Analyse the long-term impact of the contractors' training	2020	Secretariat	Assembly	Legal and Technical

	their long-term impact on capacity-building	programmes				Commission
		(ii) Recommend measures to improve the impact of the contractors' training programmes	2020	Secretariat	Assembly	Legal and Technical Commission
5.4.2	Facilitate the adjustment of contractor training programmes to meet the needs of developing States	(i) Identify, in partnership with contractors, options for the adjustment of their contractors' training programmes	2021	Secretariat	Assembly	Legal and Technical Commission
		(ii) Develop cost-effective measures to improve the delivery of the contractors' training programmes	2020	Secretariat	Council	Legal and Technical Commission

Strategic direction 6: ensure fully integrated participation by developing States

6.3.1	Identify training opportunities for personnel from developing States in marine science and technology	(i) Develop a network of entities providing training opportunities for personnel from developing States	2020	Secretariat		
		(ii) Promote and facilitate the establishment of regional centres of excellence for strengthening capacities in developing States	Continuous	Assembly	Secretariat	
		(iii) Establish and maintain a database of trainees from developing States who have benefited from training opportunities	Continuous	Secretariat		Legal and Technical Commission
6.3.2	Actively promote partnerships with Governments, contractors and international organizations to maintain and develop training opportunities for personnel from developing States	(i) Facilitate the selection of qualified candidates for training programmes under plans of work	Continuous	Secretariat	Legal and Technical Commission	Council
		(ii) Report on the implementation	Continuous	Secretariat	Legal and Technical	

6.3.3	Identify and develop measures to strengthen the role of women in deep seabed-related activities and, in particular, deep seabed research	of training programmes Report on the measures identified or developed that could be implemented by the Authority to strengthen the role of women in deep sea research	2020	Secretariat	Commission Assembly
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