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Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Statement by H.E Mr Michael W. Lodge

Secretary-General

International Seabed Authority

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[Check against delivery]

Leveraging interlinkages between all Sustainable development Goals requires to adopt an integrated approach to complex and interconnected processes and issues. This is the only viable way to preserve a balance amongst all interest involved and the rights recognized to all relevant stakeholders.

This is the approach followed by the International Seabed Authority within the remits of the exclusive mandate assigned to it by UNCLOS in order to regulate seabed activities beyond national jurisdictions, in the Area.

Pursuant to the Strategic Plan and High-Level Action plan adopted by our members in 2018, ISA thrives to implement its mandate in compliance with UNCLOS but also with the objective to achieve the sustainable management of the deep seabed and its resources which will contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2021, the ISA Secretary-General commissioned an independent report to assess how ISA contributes to the 2030 Agenda. This independent report found that, through implementing its mandate under UNCLOS, and progressing the voluntary commitments registered at the 2017 UN Ocean Conference, ISA already contributes in a meaningful way to 12 of the 17 SDGs, including, of course, SDG 14.

This contribution is of particular relevance as it relates to:

- strengthening the rule of law in ocean governance;
- developing deep-sea mineral resources to benefit humanity as a whole;
- Ensuring a rapid and safe transition to low-carbon economies;
- Preventing environmental harm through the development of a global regulatory framework for deep-seabed mining based on best available scientific evidence and a precautionary approach;
- Developing capability and strengthening institutions of developing States;
- Contributing to marine science by advancing and sharing global knowledge of the deep sea.

All reflect the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

Amongst the reasons of success in the implementation by ISA of the mandate given by UNCLOS are the numerous global strategic partnerships established with a wide range of stakeholders.

Although they had different views on many issues, all share a strong sense of commitment to the legal regime set out by UNCLOS for the sustainable management of a global commons and therefore, the underlying mission of the Authority.

We trust that going forward, more will join us to progress collectively in the implementation of the mandate assigned by UNCLOS which as we all agreed this week, is central to the success of the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.