



Partnership Dialogue 6: Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology

Thursday 8 June 2017, 15:00-18:00

Statement by Alfonso Ascencio-Herrera, Legal Counsel and Deputy to the Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority

An essential part of the mission of the International Seabed Authority is to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the seabed beyond national jurisdiction.

Improved scientific knowledge is critical to effective management.

Recognizing this, the Authority is mandated to coordinate and disseminate the results of such research for the benefit of all, particularly the developing countries.

We have long recognized that strategic global partnerships are the key to mobilizing **scant** resources to carry out deep sea scientific research.

For that purpose, the Authority has forged productive and dynamic partnerships with member States, deep sea exploration contractors, scientific entities and academia.

Distinguished delegates,

The concept note for this Partnership Dialogue recognizes the progress that we all have made in terms of capacity building. But it also identifies the need to do more, and especially to leverage new technologies to benefit developing countries.

In this regard, the Authority will be offering its support to several of the partnership initiatives and voluntary commitments, including offering our support to IOC-UNESCO in launching an International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and working with IOC-GEBCO to contribute to Seabed 2030.

Today, we are pleased to draw your attention to three of the voluntary commitments made by the Authority for this conference:

- **First.** We will work with the University of Hawaii and other stakeholders, to establish long-term deep sea observatories as part of a global DOOS system, to monitor environmental variables and improve understanding of ecosystem functions in the deep sea.
- **Second.** We are working with exploration contractors and the global scientific community to establish publicly accessible online atlases of species collected from the international seabed area. This will significantly enhance international understanding of deep sea biodiversity.
- **And third.** We have committed to enhance the role of women in marine scientific research.

I invite, **all of you**, to join us in these partnerships.

Thank you.