recommendations to the Council in this regard. The Commission was also requested to develop terms of reference for a workshop to address these critical components on the development process.

5. In light of the above, in May 2019, a workshop was held in Pretoria bringing together experts from a wide range of backgrounds to assist in reviewing and prioritizing a list of Standards and Guidelines to be implemented within timelines and using a phased approach. The workshop also aimed to establish a suggested process by which standards and guidelines are to be developed within the organs of the ISA. The workshop was organized by the ISA in collaboration with the Government of South Africa and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom.

# 6.

marine environment in the development of additional regional environmental management plans (REMPs) in the Area. In May 2019, an expert meeting to explore the feasibility of applying various management approaches to regional environmental management plans, building on experiences and lessons learned from other ocean industries, was convened in Paris by the Atlantic regional environmental management plan project (sponsored by the European Union) in collaboration with the ISA. Several workshops have been planned for 2019 and 2020 to facilitate the development and review of REMPs:

- Ø October 2019- an expert workshop on Qarion-Qipperton Zone biodiversity synthesis organized by the secretariat and the Deep Qarion-Qipperton Zone (QCZ) Project of the University of Hawaii to review and analyze recent seafloor ecosystem data from the Qarion-Qipperton Zone to synthesize patterns of biodiversity, community structure, species ranges, genetic connectivity, ecosystem function and habitat heterogeneity along and across the Qarion-Qipperton Zone.
- Ø November 2019- a workshop on regional environmental assessment in support of the

associated with the Enterprise. This report and an executive summary highlighting the principal recommendations of the Study are available on the website of the Authority in the form of an advance unedited text.

8. Pursuant to article 84, paragraph 2, of the Convention, coastal States are obliged to give due publicity to charts or lists of geographical coordinates of points and, in the case of those indicating the outer limit lines of the continental shelf, to deposit a copy of such charts or lists with the Secretary-General of the Authority. As at 24 June 2019, ten members of the Authority have deposited such charts and lists with the Secretary-General, namely: Australia, Bahrain, France (with respect to Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guyana, New Caledonia and the Kerguelen islands), Ireland, Mauritius, Mexico, Niue, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tuvalu.

9. The Secretary-General has urged all coastal States which have not done so to deposit such charts or lists of coordinates as soon as possible in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention.

# Contractors training programmes

10. The Authority discharges its obligation pursuant to Articles 143 and 144 of the Convention to promote marine scientific research in the Area and build the capacity of developing States in deep-sea research and technology through the training programs provided by the Contractors under exploration contracts with the Authority and the Endowment Fund for marine scientific research in the Area. From 2013 to 2018, a total of 98 training places were provided by 19 contractors. The types of training included at-sea tra

## Secretary-General's Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research

## 14. The inaugural event of the Secretary-

-sea Research

was held during the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly. In July 2018, Diva Amon (Trinidad and Tobago), a deep-sea biologist, received an award for her extensive research and exploration experience at sea, which have contributed to advancing understanding of abyssal ecosystems and the environmental impacts of human industrial activities in the deep sea. In February 2019, the Government of Monaco informed the Secretary-General of its decision to support the Award with a grant of \$15,000 that will be used to award a prize to the 2018 and 2019 awardees, cover the cost of the tickets for the attendance of the 2019 awardee, as well as the publication fees of her/his research in a relevant scientific (open-access) journal.

15. The Authority actively contributed to the work and discussions of the United Nations Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017. On that occasion, the Authority registered a series of voluntary commitments with a view to:

- (a) Enhancing the role of women in marine scientific research through capacity-building;
- (b) Encouraging the dissemination of research results through the Authority Secretary-Deep-Sea Research;

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

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

16. Additional voluntary commitments were registered in partnership with other agencies, notably with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on the Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth<sup>1</sup> and with the African Minerals Development Centre<sup>2</sup>. Progress has been made in the implementation of the voluntary commitment dedicated to enhancing the role of women in marine scientific research through capacity-building. Further initiatives are currently under consideration in partnership with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Maritime University.

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19. The ISA secretariat has participated in a number of initiatives with other relevant organizations aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and dialogue among users of the Area. The Authority is a member of UN-Oceans and the secretariat participates in its meetings, as appropriate, and in accordance with its mandate. During the reporting period, the secretariat participated remotely to the nineteenth face-to-face meeting of UN-Oceans held at the World Meteorological Organization Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

### Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS)

20. The Authority also has a close and productive working relationship with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. An informal meeting was held in March 2019 between the secretariat and DOALOS to exchange information and promote cooperation, in particular in respect of updating a joint technical study on deep seabed minerals, geographic information systems (GIS) and implementation of article 84 of the nation of article 84 ont0 1 7(s)-3()-164JETIose(ng)-175(w)3