



## **Organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

**8 February 2021**

REMARKS

by H.E Mr. Michael W. Lodge,  
Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

Under-

Ambassador Perks Master Ligoya,

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for this opportunity to intervene on behalf of the International Seabed Authority.

The ISA was established 26 years ago by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Our mandate is to ensure the sustainable management of deep-sea minerals beyond national jurisdiction for the benefit of all humanity.

In doing so, ISA must promote the effective participation of developing States in deep-sea exploration and mineral exploitation. We must also recognize the special needs of the least technologically advanced States. This is the direct result of the strong engagement of the Group of 77 during the negotiation that led to the adoption of UNCLOS.

As a result, Least Developed States have the right to conduct marine scientific research in the deep sea, participate in deep sea mineral exploration, and receive an equitable share of the financial and economic benefits from deep-sea minerals.

The rights accorded to LDCs and recognized in UNCLOS are fundamental to achieving the priority areas identified in the Istanbul Programme of Action and ensuring that all can benefit from the promises