Introduction

- 272 members
- 303 voluntary commitments
- Co-focal points:
  - Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, United Nations Legal Counsel
  - Mr. Michael Lodge, Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority
- Voluntary commitments encompass, among others:
  - Activities to raise awareness of the legal/policy framework for the oceans and promote effective implementation
  - Activities to develop the capacity of States towards broader participation in and effective implementation of UNCLOS, its implementing agreements, and other ocean-related instruments
  - Activities to strengthen ocean governance
COA Activities

• Focus on three thematic challenges:
  ✓ Addressing gaps in participation and challenges in implementation of international law as reflected in UNCLOS (webinar hosted on 22 August 2018)
  ✓ Addressing challenges and urgent needs of developing countries (webinar hosted on 18 October 2018)
  ✓ Strengthening ocean governance (webinar hosted on 10 December 2018)
Interim assessment (as at 31 December 2018)

- 39 members submitted progress reports through the Registry of VCs
- Additional input received via email from 12 members
- Key common implementation challenges:
  - Capacity issues
  - Stakeholder engagement issues (coordination and cost)
  - Issues regarding availability of funding/resources, generally