



Kiribati Statement for the 24th ISA session

25th July 2018

Delivered by Member of Delegation

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time for Kiribati to take the floor, please allow me to convey our congratulations on your election to the presidency position for this 24rd session of the ISA Assembly. My government wishes to express assurance of our full cooperation and support.

Through you Mr. President I would also like to extend our gratitude to the Government and people of Jamaica for being very gracious and hospitable hosts to us since our first arrival in this beautiful country.

On matters of business, I thank the Secretary-General Mr. Michael Lodge for his comprehensive and informative Annual report delivered.

Mr. President

As a member of Kiribati delegation I would also like to extend our full support to the statement made by the Republic of Nauru on behalf of the Pacific Island Forum members.

As known, Kiribati consists of three groups of islands – the Gilbert, Phoenix, and Line groups in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. Collectively, the Exclusive Economic Zone covers about 3.5 million square kilometres. The easternmost part of the country, the Line Islands Group is adjacent to the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture zone.

In this unique situation, with Kiribati being one of the closest country to the CCFZ we are very grateful to see that continuous work is still progressing well for the environmental management plans. It is also acknowledged that the draft mining Code attempts to address the implications in the event of transboundary harm to the marine environment of national jurisdiction, nevertheless, there is still much work to be done to ensure that the regulations effectively do so.

Mr. President,

We would like to make some observations with respect to the Draft mining Code under the;

Application Stage

Through examining the application process starting with Draft Regulation (DR) 4, transboundary harm should be taken into account in its decision-making process before the contract is in place through consultation with adjacent coastal States.

Secondly, under the;

Terms of the Contract

Once a contract for exploitation is issued, it is important that the prevention to cause transboundary harm is clearly stated as a term of the contract and where such harm is caused.

Finally Mr. President, under the;

Execution of the contract

From the current version of the mining code, it is understood that DR 4 provides for an ongoing opportunity for coastal States to notify the Secretary-General if it has “grounds for believing that any activity in the Area is likely to cause serious harm or a threat of Serious Harm to the marine environment under its jurisdiction or sovereignty.”

This places a disproportionate burden on adjacent coastal States, especially SIDS, with limited resources and capacity to continually monitor the impacts of the activities of the Area. The ISA must play a role in alleviating this disproportionate burden and also, must attract capacity building to SIDS if we are to play an effective role.

I thank you Mr. President