

-I would like to thank the Secretary General for the proposed strategic plan. The draft is the result of an inclusive process where drafts have been presented and feedback have been collected.

-In general my delegation is happy with the draft and Norway can support its adoption.

-The plan is well rooted in the Convention and the 1994 Agreement, It identifies a vision and links this vision importantly to the larger ocean context, including the Sustainable Development Goals. It also indicates strategic steps to be taken to reach the goals.

-The mission statement is not simply formulated. However, it captures the necessary components. It refers to orderly and responsible management and development of the resources of the Area, for the benefit of mankind as a whole and the effective protection of the marine environment. The focus is on utilization of the resources and respect for the marine environment for the benefit of all.

-An important element is that the plan highlights challenges and dilemmas in reaching different goals, for example when it points to scientific, technical and commercial uncertainty in relation to the environmental protection. Such challenges and dilemmas must be taken into account.

-Finally I would like to highlight the plan's focus on cooperation and coordination with other relevant organizations. It is evident that the goals of ISA is better achieved through close coordination and cooperation with other organizations. This applies for instance to necessary scientific input to ongoing processes.

-Another important element is that future ocean management needs to be more based on exchange of experience and information, coordination of activities and joint efforts if we are to achieve the goal of conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. In the debate yesterday a number of speakers referred to the need for close relations to other organizations in all aspects of the Authority's work. I see this as a clear appreciation of the very outward-looking approach the Authority takes in its work and as an encouragement from the Assembly to continue in this direction.

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