

Statement of the Pew Charitable Trusts on Independent Review
Wednesday Morning, 27 February 2019

Thank you, Madam President. Allow me, please, to join the chorus of praise for the appointment of the extremely capable Ms Lee.

Madam President, we are strong supporters of independent review of environmental plans and environmental performance. We congratulate and thank Belgium for its initiative and the Secretariat for its well-considered issue paper. And we appreciate the thoughtfulness of Member State interventions this morning. We particularly appreciate the breadth and precision of the presentation of Germany, but note that other Members of the Council had their own well-considered points of view.

Given the significant differences among Member State interventions this morning – most particularly regarding the appropriate role of the Legal and Technical Commission – we believe that the Secretariat should bring before the Council a proposal to empanel a distinguished, internationally representative, Special Expert Committee to present to the Council a survey of comparable practices in other international organizations, and to boil down the leading models into a small number of practical options. Not unlike the process undertaken for Financial Models, except for the need for international representativeness that this issue demands and that Tonga so tellingly summarized. Should such a Special Committee be endorsed by this body, the Pew Trusts would be pleased to help defray the costs of its realization.

I should like to remind all here that they are most welcome to the Pew luncheon Side Event entitled The Clarion-Clipperton Zone: New Data, New Insights. Thank you, Madam President.