



**Republic of Nauru**

**Statement delivered by Her Excellency Margo Deiye, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru to the International Seabed Authority (ISA)**

**Agenda Item 9 – Annual report of the Secretary-General at the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the International Seabed Authority in Kingston, Jamaica**

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022**

*As delivered*

Mr. Acting President,

Let me congratulate you on your appointment and members of the Bureau, and the outgoing President for this work. Mr Acting President, I assure you of the full support of my delegation. Likewise, I would like to extend my delegation's appreciation to the Government and people of Jamaica for their warm hospitality, excellent arrangements and wish them peace and prosperity on the occasion of their upcoming Independence Day.

At the outset let me congratulate Dr. Kirsty McQuaid of South Africa for her achievements and being awarded the Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research. We wish you every success in your work. We acknowledge and thank the contributions made by Monaco including those made by the contractors UKSR, NORI and TOML.

Allow me to highlight Nauru's priority areas as related to the ocean, the marine environment and its resources.

We rely on the Ocean for our livelihoods and sustainable development. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Nauru faces significant and unique sustainable development challenges due to our small size, limited natural resources, particular vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, and over-dependence on imports. These challenges have been recognized time and time again by the international community.

Moreover, the pre-existing challenges we face have been exacerbated by the clear and present danger posed by climate change and the drastic action required. Our vision is that the recovery

of polymetallic nodules from the ocean floor will provide a critical mix in the metals supply chain, thus aiding global transition to clean renewable energy sources as well as creating the foundation for a circular economy. The sustainable use of our oceans includes the responsible recovery and extraction of critical metals housed in polymetallic nodules.

We consider operationalising the fundamentals of the common heritage of humankind principle, and the development of the Area and its resources as a timely contributor toward the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our vision encompasses one of robust and fair regulation, and continued mechanisms that promote transparency and accountability as well as ensuring the effective protection of the marine environment through appropriate environmental management measures. Indeed, we acknowledge in particular the work undertaken by the delegation of Germany in advancing us toward measurable, normative environmental thresholds as a fundamental development area in ensuring that necessary protection. We must also in our regulatory development process, promote a framework that recognizes technology and innovation as central to enable solutions being brought to the table to protect the marine environment.

Mr. President,

We applaud the Secretariat's contribution to the ISA strategic partnerships and directions on the SDGs. We note that the ISA currently contributes to 12 of the 17 SDGs and therefore, we commend the work of the Secretary-General and this Authority, including work on women's empowerment and leadership in marine scientific research (MSR), and the participation of women from developing States in deep-sea research. We would encourage further capacity building initiatives in this regard.

Capacity-building for developing States is a key priority area for Nauru and other small-island developing States. We recognise and value the contractor training programmes as the core of hands-on practical training. We acknowledge the ISA-SPC partnership for the enhancement of scientific and technical capacities of Pacific countries in relation to the sustainable development of deep-sea mineral resources. We also acknowledge the invaluable contribution of The Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth in supporting Pacific sponsoring States. We thank Norway and UNDESA for their continuing and generous support for this initiative and look forward to participating in future programmes.

On the status of the voluntary trust fund, we note the recent contributions and encourage members to continue to contribute to the voluntary trust fund to allow developing countries to participate in the meetings and activities of the International Seabed Authority

Mr. President,

We will continue to work with the International Seabed Authority and its members and stakeholders and our sponsored entity to put in place the necessary standards for the conduct of exploitation activities with a core focus on environmental quality standards to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment.

Let us continue to work collectively and constructively to finalise a world-class ISA Mining Code. We have a window of opportunity to support the development of a sector that we consider has the real potential to help accelerate our energy transition, to realise financial and

other economic benefits for the international community as a whole flowing from the principle of the common heritage of mankind, to contribute to our sustainable development agenda, and a sector that is subject to a unique and robust oversight mechanism through ISA and sponsoring States.

I thank you.