



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
KINGDOM OF TONGA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Intervention by Ms. Jeanett Vea
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations**

Part 1 of ISA28 – ISA Council Meeting

16 March 2023

ISA Headquarters, Kingston, Jamaica

Thank you, Mr. President.

Since its our first time to take the floor, please allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of your presidency role for which the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga renders our full support. Our delegation would also like to acknowledge with gratitude the relentless efforts of your predecessor over the period of his presidency. We congratulate the appointments of vice-presidents as endorsed by the Council.

We appreciate, as always, the hospitality of the host country, Jamaica.

We thank the Secretary-General and his team for their continued support in timely providing information for the meeting and for the organization of the whole session.

Tonga reaffirms our commitment to upholding the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and on that note, we welcome the historic conclusion of the negotiations of the Intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

We appreciate the program of work before us, and we remain open and look forward to working constructively with all to complete a robust set of exploitation regulations with all the necessary standards in place befitting of that enshrined under UNCLOS.

Mr. President, we wish you and all members a constructive and fruitful meeting ahead.

I thank you.