

## Hinano Intervention

Thank you Mr President

We thank the Secretary-General and the secretariat you for the report on Implementation of the action plan of the International Seabed Authority in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The plans for scientific research in the area are impressive and we are glad to see that many states are participating, including: South Korea, France, and other EU countries.

However, as Germany, Italy, Portugal, and others have noted the ISA should take the BBNJ Treaty as a guideline, and in this regard the report falls critically short in its inclusion of traditional knowledge alongside scientific investigation. Traditional knowledge is, quite simply, missing from the report.

Pacific indigenous cultures have been a part of the ocean ecosystem for thousands of years and have developed knowledge and stewardship practices that have allowed them to live in harmony with the ocean and its inhabitants and thereby insure their own survival. This has not been the case with modern exploitation, and we have grave concerns that after fishing pressure, pollution, and incoming climate change pressures, seabed mining may be one impact too many to the ocean.

We, the Polynesian and Pacific Island communities, hold valuable knowledge about the ocean and its ecosystems and therefore the potential impacts of mining activities. We would like to ask the ISA to recognize and integrate our indigenous and traditional knowledge into the knowledge-base being developed on the deep sea. Integrating this knowledge can contribute to more sustainable and responsible decision-making and more inclusive environmental impact assessments.

In general we would like to see meaningful consultations with experts in traditional knowledge across Oceania to incorporate our respective perspectives, values and concerns regarding deep-sea mining activities. That consultation must also include seeking and receiving free, prior informed consent consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This can help shape policies, regulations and guidelines that take into account our cultural and spiritual relationship with the ocean.