

Fiji Intervention Notes – Item 8 – SG Annual Report 2023

Mr President

Thank you Mr. President for giving Fiji the floor

As this is the first time Fiji is taking the floor, I take this time to thank for Government and people of Jamaica for their warm hospitality.

Mr. President once again congratulations on your election to preside over the 28th session of the Assembly and you can count on Fiji's full support.

Fiji welcomes the Republic of Rwanda as the newest party to the Convention and the 1994 Agreement

Fiji extends its appreciation to the Secretary General and congratulates him on the extensive report which needs to be commended. Fiji appreciates the hard work and grand effort of the Secretariat and staff throughout the year, and in particular during the intensive sessions of the Authority including the hardworking interpreters.

Based on the content of the Secretary General's 2023 annual report, Fiji has the following comments:

- We note with thanks the significant progress accomplished by the Secretariat in implementing the different high-level actions and associated outputs identified in the Strategic Plan and High-Level Action Plan for 2019-2023
- Fiji appreciates the number of new strategic partnerships established to support implementation of mandate and competences of ISA (p.18) In particular, we welcome the increased partnerships with scientific organisations and research organisations from developing States (p.18 & 45), as Marine scientific research remains a key priority for Fiji in this decade of ocean science.
- Fiji recognizes the progress made in the ongoing negotiations on the exploitation regulations and the support and contributions from the secretariat in these activities. Fiji is committed to continuing the elaboration of the mining code in a transparent and inclusive manner.
- Fiji commends the ISA and Secretary General for his leadership role in advancing women empowerment and leadership in ocean affairs and scientific research (Impact Group on Research and Oceans for Women and Women In Deep Sea Research project. We take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to our fellow Pacific Islander, Ms. Rima Browne for attaining the 4th edition of the SG's

award for research excellence in Deep Sea Research. It is indeed a proud moment for the Cook Islands and the Pacific region. We wish Ms. Browne the very best in her future endeavours and her achievement will definitely encourage or incentivise more women and young scientists in the Pacific to delve into deep sea research.

- In line with this, Fiji underscores the important mandate of the Authority in developing capacities of developing states and recognize the excellent work being done in that regard, in particular regarding the Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth in the Pacific Region, and we also commend the launch of the learning platform - DEEP DIVE last week
- Fiji also notes the specific efforts made in advancing deep-sea literacy and welcomes the quality of publications and research papers produced by the Secretariat to support critical discussions under development. We support the continuation of this work and invite the Secretary General and Secretariat to continue this effort.
- In wrapping up, Fiji wishes to reiterate our support to the Secretary General and the important work he, and his team, have and continue to undertake.

Vinaka vakalevu and I thank you Mr President.