



HSA STATEMENT

High Seas Alliance Intervention on ABMT and MPAs, 4.5, 4.6

September 13th 2018

Thank you Madam Facilitator for giving the HSA the floor again, in addition to points we have made in previous interventions including on item 4.4, we would like to make a few brief points on items 4.5 and 4.6. Our fuller observations will be on Papersmart.

First, we support Papua New Guinea's suggestion for interim measures for ABMTs.

These are very important, as are the inclusion of emergency measures once MPAs are established. Inspiration for the latter can be gained from Kuala Lumpur Protocol on Liability, Art 5(4) and SPRFMO, Art. 20(5) on emergency measures.

With respect to section 4.5 on Monitoring and Review:

We are of the view that there should be regular monitoring and assessment of ABMTs, including MPAs and associated management measures adopted pursuant the new instrument to ensure they are meeting their objectives. Reports and assessments should be made publicly available.

The scientific committee established under the new Instrument should have a responsibility to undertake a regular review of the effectiveness of the MPA network in order to identify gaps and recommend additions or amendments.

The CoP should have the ability to review the effectiveness of the management measures adopted pursuant to the ABMT, including MPAs, in order to inform any changes to the management plan or its implementation.

With respect to section 4.6 on Issues from the cross-cutting elements:

Regarding used of terms, the proposed definitions of ABMTs proposed by the EU provides a good basis for discussion.

In addition, the Instrument should include a definition of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Building on existing definitions under the CBD (Art. 2) and IUCN, MPAs could be defined as:

"A geographically defined marine area in ABNJ designated under the new Instrument where human activities are regulated, managed or prohibited in order to afford comprehensive protection to achieve long-term biodiversity conservation and build ecosystem resilience".

Regarding Clearing-house mechanism: a Clearing-house mechanism could act as a repository of information relevant to ABMT, including scientific information and management plans, and follow-up reports and related decisions by competent bodies.

Data and information pertaining to the ecological characteristics of ABNJ could be shared and made available in order to underpin a science-based approach and enable the best-available scientific information to be readily accessed by those who need it to designate and monitor and evaluate ABMTs, including MPAs.

With regard to practical arrangements that would need to be included in the instrument, we support the suggestions made by Nauru on behalf of the PSIDS.

Thank you Madam Facilitator.