

Monday 5 April 2017 Day 8

ABMTs

Mission Blue on behalf of High Seas Alliance

Thank you Mr Chair

This intervention is by Mission Blue on behalf of the High Seas Alliance and we support the interventions by Pew and Greenpeace.

It is encouraging to have such a rich discussion and we thank Alice Revell for her excellent report.

We believe it is helpful to bring in relevant aspects of the various discussions we have had together. In particular, in the cross cutting issues discussion, it seems there is much agreement around the need for a Conference of the Parties, Secretariat and Scientific Committee. This is a good foundation to build on. And in recognizing the need for a global model, the interventions by Belize on behalf of CARICOM, the European Union, Algeria on behalf of the African Group, Nauru for PSIDs, Costa Rica, Iran, South Africa, Mexico, Fiji, Argentina, Senegal, Pakistan, Peru and others are helpful in providing this perspective.

Regarding strengths and weaknesses of various models, we acknowledge that sectoral organisations have taken some effective steps to protect ABNJ. However, their measures only apply to their specific sector and do not - and in fact cannot, based on their current mandates - take into account impacts from other sectors or cumulative impacts on biodiversity. These bodies are established to protect the specific sectoral interests rather than wider biodiversity conservation measures. To give an example, while the IMO can designate particularly sensitive sea areas or PSSAs, proponents are required to prove vulnerability to a specific threat, and to demonstrate that harm has occurred, which is very difficult to demonstrate in remote areas of the high seas. An additional hurdle is that, a PSSA can only be designated if the IMO has already adopted protective measures to address the identified threat. As a result, so far no PSSA has been designated in ABNJ.

We also support Belize and the EU's suggestion on the need for a process for recognition of existing ABMTs, including MPAs already adopted by competent bodies, as long as the MPAs meet the criteria under the new Instrument. An important added value of the new Instrument would be to complement and strengthen sectoral measures and give global recognition to existing MPAs.

To conclude, we feel the EU summed it up perfectly: simply putting general standards in the IA and requiring the CoP to adopt general guidelines "would just not do the trick." A global regime

is needed to manage our global ocean. That is, after all, why we are here: the current system has not worked and there is an urgent need to protect and preserve marine biodiversity in the face of the many stressors on the ocean, whether they be direct, indirect, regional and global.

Thank you very much.