

Fiji's Intervention on the ISA Draft Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Mr. President, my delegation applauds the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the draft strategic plan and the transparent nature of open and informal multi-stakeholder consultation convened.

Evolutionary Plan

We note that this draft strategic plan is evolutionary which gives it flexibility, which we strongly support noting that these are changing times that the authority is facing and will continue to develop to address arising issues and hence an evolutionary plan is needed for the Authority.

Protection of Marine Environment

Mr. President, we also note that for Strategic Direction 3 – 'Protecting the marine environment', para 3.2 states that REMPS will be developed and implemented for exploration in mineral provinces near the Area however, we need to include exploitation as we transition from exploration to exploitation.

Transparency

For Strategic Direction 8 on Commitment to Transparency, we would like to see equitable sharing of benefit included in this aspect and will be addressed before finalizing this document. This is to ensure that there is also some transparency on the sharing of benefits as per article 140 of UNCLOS.

Timelines

We note that the strategic plan, at this point does not seem to include indicative timelines to help guide the work of the Authority in achieving the plan, we would suggest that an Annex be included for timeline giving us an overview of how work will progress for the Authority for the next 5 years.

Finally, this strategic plan will introduce new mechanisms an example being the establishment of the monitoring programme in the 'Expected Outcomes' section which will entail the need for a monitoring unit and we suggest for this to be included.

Fiji supports the draft.

I Thank you Mr. President.