

Tonga Delegation
Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction
First substantive session, on Agenda Item 7: Consideration of the subject matter referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 72/249

New York, 10th September 2018

Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas

Check against delivery

Madam Facilitator,

Thank you for giving my delegation the floor and allow me to align my intervention with that delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Maldives on behalf of AOSIS and Nauru on behalf of PSIDS.

Madam Facilitator,

4.1 Objectives – Vqpi c "ku"qh'vj g'xkgy "vj cv'vj g"KNDK'eqwrf "ugv'qw'c"i gpgtci'r tqxkukqp"y j kej " y qwf "r tqxkf g'cp"qxgtctej kpi "qdlgevxg'er r rkecdng"vq"cm'ecvgi qtlgu'qh'CDO VuIO RCu."kp" cf f kkkqp"vq"vj g"ur gekke"qdlgevxg"u"q"ur gekke"CDO Vu."kpenw w

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In this vein, the ILBI could provide for specific objectives for ABMTs and MPAs, which could include:

1. ensure resilience, conservation, protection, and maintenance of marine ecosystems, habitats and species;
2. prevent significant adverse impacts;
3. rehabilitate marine ecosystems, habitats and species;
4. ensure sustainable socio-economic development and use;
5. ensure food security;
6. avoid conflicts among users and/or human activities;

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Tonga is open to discussing working definitions of ABMTs, including MPAs, as well as other terms that will be used under this element.

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In addition to the existing internationally recognized criteria for area-based conservation measures which guide the identification of priority areas to be developed, which was raised by G77, Tonga uwi i guw"vj g"lpenwukp"qh'ctgcu"qh"j kvqtkecn'cpf "ewwvtn'uki plhkepeg."kp"cf f kvkp"vq"vj g"RUKE Uø" ðgeqpqo ke"cpf "uqeknr'hcevqtuö"etkgtk"r tqf qugf "d{ "RUKE Uø"

Tonga is supportive of the call for accountability and liability as compliance will make implementation of the respective objectives meaningful.

In light of the rapid advancements in technology and scientific research, Tonga is of the view that standards and criteria should be set broadly so as to enable incorporation of further changes in scientific research and what we know about the areas and ecosystems. Further, there needs to be mechanism to timely and effectively revise the standards and criteria as appropriate.

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Rehabilitation
Marine Protected Area
ABMTs
MPAs, building upon the definition under IUCN Categories I and II;
Marine Reserves;
Marine spatial planning; and
Monitoring

4.6.3 On general principles and approaches

Tonga fully supports the principles and approaches put forward on behalf of PSIDS noting that these principles will guide the implementation of ILBI. This can be adequately reflected in the ILBI through a general provision listing the principles, which would provide a guide to achieving its objectives.

4.6.6. Clearinghouse mechanism

In addition to the purposes proposed by PSIDS, Tonga considers it necessary that the CHM would act as a repository of data and information relevant to ABMTs, including scientific information, management plans and decisions of the COP. Additionally, the clearinghouse mechanism can include non-technical summaries of the ABMT, sufficient and relevant data, descriptive information and maps.

Tonga reiterates that a clearinghouse mechanism is not an end in and of itself and its full utilisation vests in the capacity of all users to understand and apply the data and information stored therein. Tonga places emphasis on the need to strike a balance between transparency in the operation of the CHM and the need for security and confidentiality to ensure that the information is not abused or used for unintended (not peaceful) purposes.