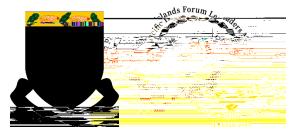
Securing our future in the Pacific



Permanent Mission of

Pacific Islands Forum with United Nations Missions

Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu with strong sets of common standards and criteria and a global level institution that ensures accountability, while not reducing or eroding the effectiveness of existing instruments and frameworks, including sub-regional ones.

Madam President, allow me to briefly highlight some of key components that, in our view, need to be reflected.

Related to this issue is the role of regional and sub-regional institutions that were established for conservation purposes under the Convention. Indeed, in our region, many institutions have mandates with relevance for the issues discussed in BBNJ. As these organizations are working together to support our delegations of the Blue Pacific, we see the value for the agreement to recognise and provide a structure which enables such existing organizations to do just that, while ensuring a robust global accountable and criteria-and-standard-setting level.

Madam President,

We know well enough that we still have much work to do. To bring us all to shore perfectly, we need everyone to be on board, which we are getting there. We then need to all paddle in the same direction and in a coordinated manner. This requires a skilful master navigator who sets the cap and stroke. With you at the helm, we are on the right path.

We stand ready to work in a constructive, cooperative manner over these next two weeks with all delegations, and to refine, amend, enhance, bridge, or merge the text we have in front of us so that we can make significant progress.

Thank you.