



INTERVENTION AT BBNJ IGC 2 3 April 2019

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to address certain aspects of the institutional arrangements for the BBNJ instrument.

A number of the options in the Aid to Negotiations section on the decisionmaking body or forum address coordination and cooperation with sectoral bodies. The ICPC believes that regardless of any option chosen, any coordination and cooperation provisions should account comprehensively for key sectoral activities in ABNJ. These include submarine cable installation and repair. The ICPC notes with interest the statement of the Holy See calling attention to the treatment of socio-economic activities within the institutional arrangements.

There is as yet no agreed definition of “sectoral body,” but there appears to a common view that the relevant sectoral bodies consist of the regional fisheries management organizations (“RMFOs”), the International Maritime Organization (“IMO”), and the International Seabed Authority (“ISA”). The ICPC notes that there is no intergovernmental organization that functions as a sectoral body regulating submarine cables. The ICPC itself is not a regulatory or standard-setting body, although it has government as well as private-sector members. Although it promotes environmental best practices within the submarine cable industry, it plays a different role than the RMFOs, the IMO, and the ISA do with respect to fishing, shipping, and mining, respectively.

To ensure effective coordination and cooperation, particularly if a decisionmaking body is to play a role with EIA requirements and/or MPA creation—and the ICPC has previously noted that it believes such a role resides ultimately with states—the ICPC believes that the objectives and processes of any decisionmaking body should address coordination and cooperation with sectoral stakeholders and not just sectoral bodies as that term is commonly understood.

Thank you, Madam President, for considering the ICPC’s preferences on this cross-cutting issue.