



Intervention
Delivered on 11 September 2018, New York

**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**

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator for giving me the floor. Congratulations on your reappointment, and I assure you of my delegation's support.

I align this statement with the views expressed by Maldives on behalf of AOSIS and Nauru by PSIDS. I would like only to highlight a few points on this cluster of discussion.

At the minimum all proposed activities in ABNJ should be subjected to a screening process to determine whether an elaborate EIA is required or not following threshold and criteria set by a Conference of Parties as advised by competent and relevant regional and sectoral agencies/organizations and other stakeholders.

Like our group has mentioned, Consultation of Adjacent coastal states should be mandatory. Activities undertaken in ABNJ may expose adjacent coastal states to Transboundary impact and exacerbate cumulative impact that may undermine efforts within national jurisdiction and therefore adjacent coastal states must be consulted. At the national level, we have declared 80% of our EEZ as a no-take zone and this comprises the Palau National Marine Sanctuary and my delegation is of the view that proposed activities in ABNJ adjacent to areas within national jurisdiction should warrant consultation of adjacent coastal states. Like others have mentioned, it this is important. The proposed activity in ABNJ should not in any way undermine efforts and activities within national jurisdiction and therefore adjacent coastal states must be consulted. In addition to states, relevant IGOs, regional and sectoral organizations, and other relevant stakeholders should be sought to actively participate in these processes.

On 5.5,

Without being too prescriptive the EIA report should include these general categories:

a full and complete description of the activities and intent of the proponent, the location and a description of the area in which the activity is to be undertaken; a statement identifying the methodologies to be used if applicable for proposed activity; a statement concerning any possible environmental impact; and any environmental monitoring or management plans that may need to be established.

I thank you, Mr. Facilitator.