



**Intervention by H.E Margo Deiye  
Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations  
Intergovernmental Consultations  
UN Oceans Conference  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

Nauru associates itself with the statements delivered by Pakistan on behalf of G77, Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of AOSIS, Fiji on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum and Samoa on behalf of the Pacific Small Island States. We have only a few short remarks to supplement those.

As many of you have heard us say before, Nauru is a big ocean state. We are highly dependent on marine resources for our sustenance and economic development. This is why we give Ocean issues the highest priority with our limited capacity. Conservation and sustainable use of the ocean is paramount if States like mine are to survive.

In line with the questions presented on the effects of the COVID pandemic, I would like to emphasize the devastating effect it has had on Nauru which relies almost entirely on a healthy, productive and resilient ocean for its economy. We have remained in a state of emergency since March 2020 and are thankfully COVID free. However, this does not mean that we have been spared the far-reaching impacts of the pandemic. Emergency measures and costs are growing unceasingly. This reality makes realizing the aspirations in target 7 of increasing the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources urgent.

We think it is important therefore that the declaration reflect on this, and the work of important fora like International Seabed Authority (ISA) which can help developing countries to participate in a new industry, that allows for the responsible collection of seafloor minerals while ensuring the protection of the environment and to implement the vision of UNCLOS.

In closing we would like to reiterate our support to you the co-facilitators and to Portugal and Kenya for a successful conference.

Thank you