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**PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES REGIONAL TRAINING AND CAPACITY  
BUILDING WORKSHOP ON DEEP-SEABED MINING  
NUKU’ALOFA, KINGDOM OF TONGA**

12-14 February 2019

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

An ocean-based economy, or “Blue Economy” is one that seeks to promote economic growth, environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and preservation or improvement of livelihoods. At its core, it refers to the de-coupling of socio-economic development of oceanic activities from environmental and ecosystems degradation. Embedded in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and reflected in the work of the United Nations for many years, the concept was borne out of the 2012 Rio+20 Conference.

The Pacific has been at the forefront of the development of the concept of the Blue Economy. This has been recently illustrated by the endorsement of the ‘Blue Pacific Identity’ by Pacific Leaders in 2017, which should be seen as the core driver of collective action for advancing Pacific Small Island Developing states (P-SIDS) objectives under the *Framework of Pacific Regionalism*. Through this, Pacific Leaders expressed their long-term vision to reinforce the potential opportunities provided by the ocean to Pacific nations.

In light of anticipated long-term future need for minerals, momentum from both national governments and the private sector has catalyzed the development of marine mineral resources. Some P-SIDS have also shown interest in this sector. Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu have granted permits for deep sea mineral exploration, and the Cook Islands have undertaken a minerals exploration tender process. Four Pacific Islands Countries, namely: The Cook Islands, Nauru, Kiribati and Tonga, are Sponsoring States and have entered into 15-year Contracts with the International Seabed Authority.

It is therefore of critical importance that these countries possess the requisite expertise and capacity to ensure the sound and sustainable management of marine mineral resources both within their national jurisdictions and beyond. This emerging industry has the potential to benefit vulnerable economies and support the well-being and social aspirations of P-SIDS. To that end, building on the successes of the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project implemented by the Pacific Community, the “Abyssal Initiative” – a joint Voluntary Commitment of UNDESA and ISA officially launched at the

2017 UN Ocean Conference - will focus on two critical components. First, ensuring that the targeted countries are in a position to comply with their national and international obligations as seabed activities progress. Second, that the necessary governance structures and mechanisms required are in place in order to achieve these objectives in an effective manner.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

UNDESA and ISA are determined, through the implementation of the 'Abyssal Initiative', to strengthen the capacity of P-SIDS to access sustainably and benefit from seabed activities and therefore, from the Blue Economy. In light of this, the **Pacific Small Island Developing States Regional Training and Capacity Building Workshop**, schedule to be held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, aims at bringing a representative of each P-SIDS to discuss further the potential benefits associated with an increased participation of P-SIDS in deep-sea related activities. It is anticipated that this workshop will enable participants to deliberate and agree on how participation of P-SIDS could be increased in activities undertaken in the Area, and what would be necessary to ensure that they fully benefit from such activities. Additionally, it is expected that the consultation between UNDESA/ISA and the P-SIDS representatives would provide the opportunity to clearly identify the main needs of the targeted countries to build the necessary capacities that will contribute to achieving their Blue Economy objectives.

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

| DAY 1       | Tuesday 12 February 2019  |
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| 08:30-09:00 | Registration  |
| 09:00-10:00 | Opening prayer  |
|             | <p><b>Opening addresses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr Mahe 'U.S Tupouniua, Secretary for foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Tonga</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Michael Lodge, Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Akuila Tawake, Deputy Director, Geo-resources sector and Energy Programme, Pacific Community</i></li> <li>• <i>Video Message – Ambassador Peter Thomson, UNSG Special Envoy on Oceans</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Group photo</b></p> |

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| 10:00- 10:30         | <i>Morning tea break</i>  |
| <b>Session I</b>     | <b>Status of DSM activities in the Pacific: Overview and Way Forward</b>  |
|                      | President: <i>M. Michael Lodge, Secretary-General, ISA</i><br>Rapporteur: <i>Mr Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</i>  |
| 10:30 – 11:00        | Marine mineral resources in the Pacific region and historical overview of exploration activities<br><i>Mr. Russell Howorth, Legal and Technical Commission, Fiji</i>  |
| 11:00 – 11:30        | Current status of marine mineral technology development<br><i>Mr Pedro Madureira, Legal and Technical Commission, Portugal</i>  |
| 11:30 – 12:00        | Trends and development in marine mineral demand and supply<br><i>Mr Pedro Madureira, Legal and Technical Commission, Portugal</i>   |
| 12:00 – 12:30        | DSM activities and P-SIDS engagement<br><i>Mr. Akuila Tawake, SPC</i>   |
| 12:30 – 12:40        | <b>Discussion</b>   |
| <b>12:40 – 14:00</b> | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 14:00 – 14:30        | Role and responsibilities of ISA in regulating deep-seabed related activities<br><i>Mr Michael Lodge, Secretary-General, ISA</i>  |
| 14:30 – 15:00        | Contribution of P-SIDS to the development of the “Mining Code”<br><i>Dr Suka Mangisi, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations</i>  |
| 15:00 – 15:30        | Presentation of the Abyssal Initiative Project<br><i>Mr Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, UNDESA &amp; Ms Marie Bourrel-McKinnon, Senior Policy Officer and Special Assistant to the Secretary-General, ISA</i>                                 |
| <b>15:30 – 16:00</b> | <b>Afternoon tea break</b>  |
| 16:00 – 16:30        | Contribution of the private sector to the development of a sustainable DSM industry in support of P-SIDS Blue Economy<br><i>Mr Paul Taumoepau, TOML</i><br><i>Mr Robert Milbourne, Head of Corporate and Government Affairs, Deep-Green</i> |
| 16:30 – 16:40        | <b>Discussion</b>   |

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| <b>DAY 2</b>         | <b>Wednesday 13 February 2019</b>   |
| <b>Session II</b>    | <b>Module 1: Role and Responsibilities of Sponsoring States</b>   |
|                      | <p>President: <i>Mr Mahe 'U.S Tupouniua, Secretary for foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Tonga</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: <i>Dr Marie Bourrel-McKinnon, Senior Policy Officer – Special Assistant to the Secretary-General, ISA</i></p>   |
| 09:30 – 10:00        | <p>Role and responsibilities of sponsoring States in a DSM context</p> <p><i>Mr Yongsheng Cai, Senior Legal Officer, ISA</i></p>  |
| 10:00 – 11:00        | <p>Review of National Legislations</p> <p><u>Nauru:</u></p> <p><i>Mr Graham Leung, Secretary, Justice and Border Control, Department of Justice, Nauru</i></p> <p><u>Tonga:</u></p> <p><i>Mr Sione Sisifa, Solicitor General, Kingdom of Tonga</i></p> <p><u>Kiribati:</u></p> <p><i>Mrs Joyce Uaan, Senior Compliance Officer for Deep Seabed Mineral Activities</i></p> <p><u>Cook Islands:</u></p> <p><i>Mrs Rima Browne, GIS officer, Seabed Minerals Authority, Cook Islands</i></p> |
| <b>11:00 – 11:30</b> | <b><i>Morning break</i></b>   |
| 11:30 – 12:00        | <p>Status of national legislation relating to deep-seabed mining</p> <p><i>Mr Yongsheng Cai, Senior Legal Officer, ISA</i></p>  |
| 12:00 – 12:30        | <p>Role of Stakeholders in advancing good practices in deep seabed mining in the Area</p> <p><i>PIANGO</i></p>  |
| 12:30-12:40          | <b>Discussion</b>   |
| 12:40 – 14:00        | <i>Lunch</i>  |
| <b>Session III</b>   | <b>Module 2: Marine scientific research</b>   |
|                      | <p>President: <i>Mr Malcom Clark, Principal Scientist – Fisheries, NIWA</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: <i>Dr Suka Mangisi, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations</i></p>   |

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| 14:00 – 14:30 | <p>Legal regime governing the conduct of MSR in the Area</p> <p><i>Dr Marie Bourrel-McKinnon, Senior Policy Officer – Special Assistant to the Secretary-General, ISA</i></p>  |
| 14:30 – 14:45 | <p><b>Presentation of results of exploration works</b></p> <p><b>TOML</b></p> <p>P-SIDS case studies: overview of national processes in place to undertake MSR, collect data and transform data into knowledge</p>   |
| 14:45 – 15:30 | <p><b>Tonga:</b> Overview of the process in place for MSR undertaken in the Area</p> <p><i>Mr. Taniela Kula, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Lands &amp; Natural Resources, Tonga</i></p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> Overview of the process in place for MSR undertaken in the Area</p> <p><i>Mrs Joyce Uaan, Senior Compliance Officer for Deep Seabed Mineral Activities, Kiribati</i></p> <p><b>Cook Islands:</b> Overview of the process in place for MSR undertaken in the Area</p> <p><i>Mrs Rima Browne, GIS officer, Seabed Minerals Authority, Cook Islands</i></p> |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | <i>Afternoon break</i>   |
| 16:00 – 16:15 | <p>Available data and role of ISA in sharing environmental information</p> <p><i>Mr Pedro Madureira, Legal and Technical Commission, Portugal</i></p>  |
| 16:15 – 16:35 | <p>Overview of the process in place for sharing the results of MSR undertaken in the Area : perspectives from a Contractor</p> <p><b>TBC</b></p>   |
| 16:35 – 16:50 | <b>Discussion</b>  |

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| <b>DAY 3</b>         | <b>Thursday 14 February 2019</b>   |
| <b>Session IV</b>    | <b>Module 3 : Environmental management of DSM resources</b>  |
|                      | President: <i>Mr Akuila Tawake, SPC</i><br>Rapporteur: <i>Mrs Margo Deiyee, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Nauru to the United Nations</i>   |
| 09:30 – 10:00        | Environmental obligations in DSM context: perspective of a Sponsoring State<br><i>Mr Malcom Clark, Principal Scientist – Fisheries, NIWA</i>   |
| 10:00 – 10:30        | Environmental obligations in DSM context: perspective of a contractor<br><i>Mrs Samantha Smith, Deep-Green,</i>  |
| 10:30 – 11:00        | Development and implementation of regional environmental management plans<br><i>Mrs Marie Bourrel-McKinnon, ISA</i>  |
| <b>11:00 – 11:30</b> | <b>Morning break</b>   |
| <b>Session V</b>     | <b>Module 4: Benefit sharing</b>   |
| 11:30 – 12:00        | Role of ISA in ensuring the equitable sharing of financial and other economic benefit from deep-seabed mining<br><i>Mr Michael Lodge, Secretary-General, ISA</i>   |
| 12:00 – 12:30        | Overview of the discussions on the future financial model held within ISA in the context of the development of the draft exploitation regulations<br><i>Mr Siosuia 'Utoikamanu, Legal and Technical Commission, Kingdom of Tonga</i>   |
| 12:30-12:40          | <b>Discussion</b>  |
| <b>12:40 – 14:00</b> | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| <b>Session VI</b>    | <b>Discussion on the capacity-building needs of P-SIDS in relation to DSM related activities</b>   |
|                      | Facilitators : <i>Mrs Marie Bourrel-McKinnon, ISA &amp; Mr Sai Navoti, UNDESA</i>  |
| 14:00-14:30          | The contribution of ISA in building the capacity of P-SIDS<br><i>Ms Annakah Mason, Training Coordinator, ISA</i>   |
| 14:30-15:00          | Summary of main capacity-building needs and gaps identified during the workshop (rapporteurs)  |
| <b>15:00-15:30</b>   | <b>Afternoon break</b>   |
| 15:30-16:00          | <b>Discussion and recommendations</b>  |
| 16:00-16:15          | Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr Mahe 'U.S Tupouniua, Secretary for foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Tonga</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Michael Lodge, Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</i></li> </ul> |