

Statement by High Seas Alliance and Natural Resources Defense Council on Area Based Management Tools

I speak on behalf of Natural Resources Defense Council and the High Seas Alliance. Since this is first time we are taking the floor I'd like to thank you for your leadership here and give you our full support as we forge the way on this element of key importance to our members.

We align ourselves with the statement made by IUCN.

We would like to place Area based management tools, marine protected areas, and marine reserves into context. As we conceive it, the implementing agreement and its institutional arrangements will provide the tools, including decision-making tools, management frameworks, enhanced coordination and cooperation mechanisms, compliance and dispute resolution tools, to enable us to put into place MPAs, including marine reserves. We believe this will need a conference of the parties, a scientific committee and a compliance committee, for example, and will need well-structured objectives and principles as well as modern governance mechanisms. Of course, regional and sectoral organizations will have an important part to play, as will States parties and other stakeholders.

We also wanted to provide our view regarding some key definitions.

On Area Based management tools, we support the definition provided by IUCN (found in their Policy Brief V).

2. A definition of Marine Protected Areas based on the CBD and IUCN definitions seems most appropriate, amended to adapt to marine areas and including, as Federated States of Micronesia and others suggested, cultural values. Another good example is the IUCN Matrix definition: A geographically defined area located in the water column and/or seabed which is designated, regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives including the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

On marine reserves, we offer the following, provided by leading marine scientists, Lubchenko, et.al, which is: "Marine reserves are areas of the ocean completely protected from all extractive and destructive activities.."

Marine reserves are an important subset of MPAs. HSA believes the new instrument should mandate and enable the establishment of a global system of ecologically representative, connected and effectively managed marine protected areas (MPAs) including marine reserves, in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Lastly, on principles, guiding principles and approaches should be incorporated and operationalized within the instrument, including the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle, and the use of best available science. Transparency should also be incorporated, to allow public and civil society participation. We enumerated these and other principles in our submission to the first PrepCom.

Thank you.