

Thank you Madame Facilitator. We congratulate you on your appointment and join in thanking John Adenk for his previous contributions in this challenging role.

IUCN will focus on the objectives of new instrument for ABMTs including MPAs.

IUCN would like to echo the sentiments of the United States and other delegations that there is a role for both sectorally focused Area Based Management Tools and more comprehensively managed MPAs, as well as a suite of other conservation tools in conserving marine biodiversity resources in ABNJ. Sectoral Area Based Management Tools -- such as IMO Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas, traffic routing systems; MARPOL Special Areas; RFMO temporal or spatial closed areas such as "Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems" (VMEs), ISA's Areas of Particular Environmental Interest and Preservation Reference Zones -- provide important complementary protection. However, they generally are only targeted at one use, may be short term, and do not necessarily provide comprehensive protection for the full range of features in an area.

In contrast, Marine Protected Areas are "recognised, dedicated and managed for the long term conservation of nature." Further, according to IUCN Guidelines, "MPAs should aim to protect all the features of conservation importance within their boundaries, including the overall health and diversity of the ecosystem."

IUCN welcomes the contributions of the many states that have recognized the important role that ABMTs including MPAs can play in building, maintaining and restoring ocean health, productivity and resilience. IUCN agrees that criteria/objectives of the IA could draw on existing commitments under UNCLOS including obligation to protect and preserve rare and fragile ecosystems, CBD EBSA criteria, and the FAO criteria for VMEs. We join with others in stressing the importance of basing the objectives on the ecosystem approach, precautionary approach, and need for best scientific information.

IUCN notes that many of the accepted objectives for MPAs under other agreements allow for varying levels of small scale sustainable uses, in line with the IUCN categories for Protected Areas. However, IUCN would note that many objectives, such as such as those listed in the CCAMLR General Framework for MPAs, may require strict levels of protection if their goals are to be achieved.

CCAMLR Marine Protected Area objectives include:

- the protection of representative examples of marine ecosystems, biodiversity and habitats [at an appropriate scale to maintain their viability and integrity in the long term;]
- the protection of key ecosystem processes, habitats and species, including populations and life-history stages;
- the establishment of scientific reference areas for monitoring natural variability and long-term change or for monitoring the effects of harvesting and other human activities on Antarctic marine living resources and on the ecosystems of which they form part;
- the protection of areas vulnerable to impact by human activities, including unique, rare or highly biodiverse habitats and features;
- the protection of features critical to the function of local ecosystems;
- the protection of areas to maintain resilience or the ability to adapt to the effects of climate change.

To add to the already rich discussions on the floor, additional objectives related to climate change, as we heard during a lunchtime presentation by Prof Doug McCauley, could include: enhance carbon storage and buffer acidification, promote genetic diversity that supports adaptation, prevent release of carbon stored in seafloor sediments, protect apex predators that confer system stability, increase population size and consequently resiliency and provide stepping stones for climate migration.

In terms of targets and goals, IUCN would like to stress that such targets have already played a valuable role in galvanizing action both within and beyond national jurisdiction. The most recent IUCN World Conservation Congress agreed in Resolution 50, based on scientific advice, to a goal of designating “at least 30% of each marine habitat in a network of highly protected MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures, with the ultimate aim of creating a fully sustainable ocean, at least 30% of which has no extractive activities” including by “engaging constructively in establishing MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction.... including through:

- i. the development of a new instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and that such a new instrument contains a robust mechanism for establishing effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of marine protected areas, including reserves;”

We hope this target can be taken into consideration.

Thank you Madame Facilitator.