

**STATEMENT BY GRAHAM LEUNG, HEAD OF DELEGATION OF NAURU TO THE 25<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY, KINGSTON, JAMAICA**

Madam President

I wish to thank the Secretariat for the documents produced under this agenda item. I join others in thanking Christopher Brown for his helpful observations as well.

Nauru wishes to add its voice to this debate to support the proposal for delegation of authority to the Secretary General.

This is more so as the Council meets only intermittently and for practical purposes it is necessary for some decisions to be taken expeditiously.

In our view, the Council should give consideration to instructing the LTC to develop comprehensive language and proposals for our review and approval that would authorise the Secretary General to properly review operations, intervene and protect the environment without waiting for periodic meetings of the Council. These would be in critical situations only and are not intended to detract from the primary role of the Council.

Such agility will only improve protection of the environment and safety of operations. Any such delegation must be in clear language and define the parameters of the Secretary General's role carefully.

We believe that the Secretary General must develop world class expertise to be able to act competently and promptly independently but subject to eventual review by the Council.

Any such actions must always remain subject to a review or appeal mechanism to the Council and we believe that the mechanism of delegation should be reviewed over time to ensure that the delegations contemplated in the Annex to ISBA/25/C/6 are properly administered.

We share Singapore's view that any delegation to the Secretary General must be consistent with the 1994 Agreement as the Council is the principal executive making body. We are also in agreement with the views of FSM that there should be clarity about which decisions can be delegated to the Secretary General.

