



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE KINGDOM OF TONGA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority and has the honour to refer to the Report of the Secretary-General on Laws, Regulations and Administrative Measures adopted by Sponsoring States with respect to the Activities in the Area dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 referenced ISBA/22/C/8 and subsequent reports on the same.

The Mission has further the honor to inform the latter that Tonga had passed its Seabed Minerals Act in 2014. The Act, and its regulations that is in the process of being finalized, domesticates the role of Tonga as a sponsoring state, by regulating exploration and mining activities under the Kingdom's control in the Area. This is done pursuant to Article 153(2)(b) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Attached is an official copy of Tonga's Seabed Minerals Act 2014. The regulations once finalized will likewise be forwarded in due course.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority the assurances of its highest consideration.

**International Seabed Authority  
KINGSTON**

**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016**

