

Kingdom of Tonga's Intervention on Draft Regulation 29 quarter

DAY 5 - ISA Council Meeting Part I of the Council Session – 17-28 March 2025

Thank you, Mr. President,

Tonga supports the inclusion of Regulation 29 quarter as a key provision to ensure responsible operations and appropriate risk mitigation in the Area. We strongly support the use of internationally recognized ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable) principles and recommend the retention of the term “**grossly**” in paragraph 1 to ensure proportionality and consistency with international industry and legal standards.

We also support paragraph 2, which provides flexibility for updating risk reduction measures based on new scientific evidence and technological advancement—this aligns with Tonga's commitment to both sustainability and innovation.

On paragraph 3, we underscore the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between the responsibilities of the **Contractor** and those of the **Sponsoring State** to avoid any unintended attribution of liability.

Tonga reaffirms its support for a regulatory regime that protects the marine environment, enables responsible mining, and provides legal clarity for all parties involved.