

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius in Support of the French Proposal for a Precautionary Pause at the International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Mr. President,
Madame Secretary General,

Thank you for giving me the floor to convey my country's stand.

Mr. President, first of all Mauritius would like to congratulate you for your election as President of this 31st Session of the Assembly.

Mr. President, the Republic of Mauritius acknowledges the efforts that Member States and the Authority are putting into the work before us. The energies we put in common towards our shared goals and objectives are even more worthwhile.

As a Small Island Developing State with a maritime zone extending to approximately 2.2 million square kilometres, the sustainable development of Mauritius is inextricably dependent on a healthy and resilient ocean.

Mauritius supports the view that decisions concerning activities in the Area must be guided by the best available scientific evidence and by the precautionary approach, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Monsieur le Président,

C'est dans ce contexte que ma délégation apporte son soutien à la proposition, portée notamment par la France, le Palau, l'Allemagne entre autres, pour un moratoire sur l'exploitation commerciale des ressources minérales des grands fonds marins en attendant une meilleure évaluation de l'impact environnemental.

Supporting a precautionary pause is consistent with the Authority's mandate under UNCLOS.

It does not signify opposition to scientific research, technological innovation, or the equitable use of marine resources. Rather, it reflects a commitment to responsible stewardship, sound governance, and evidence-based decision-making.

Continued scientific research, environmental baseline studies, the development of effective monitoring systems, and the strengthening of the Mining Code should remain priorities during this period.

Mauritius also recalls that the Area and its mineral resources constitute the common heritage of humankind. Decisions concerning their use must be taken with due regard for the interests of present and future generations.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Mauritius re-iterates its full support to the work of the Authority aiming at ensuring sustainable development for all, the fair and equitable management of deep seabed activities, and the safeguarding of our common heritage for the benefit of humankind.

In this spirit, I am proud to announce that Mauritius and the Authority will be jointly hosting the next Indian Ocean REMP workshop in 2027 which will contribute to furthering the work of the Authority.

I thank you Mr. President.

Dr. Prithivi Dass Bissessur (Republic of Mauritius)
28/07/2026