



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
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**CLOSING REMARKS BY MR NATHANIEL KHNG,
MINISTER-COUNSELLOR (LEGAL), PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WORKSHOP
ON INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED
AUTHORITY AND THE BBNJ AGREEMENT BODIES AND PROCESSES,
NEW YORK, 5 NOVEMBER 2025**

1 On behalf of the co-sponsoring countries, I wish to thank everyone here for the very constructive engagement and fruitful discussions that we have had today.

2 Our speakers today have been very clear that there is a multitude of issues on which the ISA and the BBNJ Agreement bodies and processes can collaborate and cooperate in furtherance of the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources beyond national jurisdiction.

3 The matter of undermining of mandates, potential fragmentation and conflicts was something that was raised. Here I would briefly observe that the BBNJ Agreement has not yet entered into force and preparatory work to prepare for that is still ongoing. And by diligently working on the matter of cooperation, as we are doing now, I am confident that we will be able to avoid the issues raised today.

4 Ultimately, the matter of ensuring effective and constructive collaboration and cooperation between the ISA and the BBNJ Agreement bodies and processes rests with ISA members and BBNJ Agreement parties. The question that we have to grapple with as ISA members is what do we, the ISA members, do with what we know and what practical steps should be taken. In the same way that the BBNJ Agreement Preparatory Commission is discussing arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, the same discussions should be taking place within the relevant ISA bodies. Some speakers, Lanla Kamara from Sierra Leone for one, spoke about the need for the establishment, within the ISA, of a suitable framework for cooperation. China's Li Linlin mentioned having an agenda

item in the ISA. We must give careful consideration to such ideas. We need to move from theory to reality.

5 I will conclude with three points. First, the work that we do, whether this is in the context of the ISA or the BBNJ Agreement, and whether this is on cooperation specifically, must be, fundamentally, consistent with UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the constitution for the ocean. Second, any frameworks or processes within the ISA that we establish must be inclusive and driven and led by ISA members. Third, what we do must not lead to delay or undermining of the core work of the ISA, which includes the finalisation of the Exploitation Regulations. As mentioned by some speakers, the Regulations will be critical in ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of mineral resources of the deep-seabed beyond national jurisdiction. But more broadly, by ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of mineral resources of the deep-seabed beyond national jurisdiction, the regulations will also be complementary to and supportive of the objectives of the BBNJ Agreement.

6 Thank you for your attention.

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