

Statement by  
Dr. T. Suka Mangisi, Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations on Agenda Item 83:  
Consideration of Prevention of Transboundary Harm from Hazardous Ac(r)2.5788(a)-3.66653(n)-017427(C)-

<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly,  
New York, Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013

Mr Chair

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor in the Sixth Committee, I would like to first congratulate you on your election as Chair, and extend similar sentiments to your Bureau. I am confident that we are in good stead under your leadership during this 68<sup>th</sup> Session.

I would also like to thank the Secretary - General for the two reports before the Committee on the consideration of prevention of transboundary harm and the

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Mr Chair

The technical and economic feasibility of exploiting deep-sea resources is increasing rapidly, representing huge economic opportunity but also the risk of serious harm to the oceanic environment and those who depend on it.

The exploitation of deep-sea resources requires that we have in place an effective regime to mitigate risk and ensure adequate remedy in the case of harm. Developing effective regulatory regimes requires clarity on parties' respective rights and obligations in the context of transboundary harm. Tonga is playing a leading role in the Pacific in the development of a regional legislative and regulatory framework for deep seabed mining activity. It has also been one of the first states to engage with the International Seabed Authority on the potential for sponsoring activity in the Area beyond national jurisdiction reserved for the benefit of developing states.

At the domestic level, Tonga has taken action in a Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management to promote good governance, enhanced technical capability, and community resilience to climate change impacts and disasters.