

FPIC Intervention
ISA Council 28 - Delivered under Reg 47.



DTP Alumni Jonathan Mesulam from PNG presentation at the 1st Session of the 28th Session of ISA in March 2023.

The 2nd 28th Session will be in July 2023

Jonathan Mesulam is part of the Pacific Indigenous voices supported by Greenpeace Aotearoa.

Bula Madam Facilitator, Honorable Delegates,

Thank you for giving me the floor. This intervention is on behalf of Greenpeace International and the communities from the Pacific, to further highlight the issue of Free Prior Informed Consent experienced by Small Island Developing States.

It is with great privilege for me as an Indigenous Grassroots Representative to present issues surrounding the FPIC process from the Pacific experience more particularly, Papua New Guinea, where the world's first deep sea mining commercial exploitation license was granted.

The Solwara 1 Project by Canadian company called Nautilus and the project site was just off the coast of my island home in New Ireland Province of Papua New Guinea. The Solwara 1 Project should stand as a precautionary reminder to the ISA and our membership.

As a member of the Global community we are concerned about the countless challenges the world is facing today. Seabed mining is a new industry that lacks wider publicity in our communities. More information is needed to be provided to the Indigenous communities as the Ocean has been part of our ancestral for generations and will continue to support the future generation.

With our experience from the Nautilus Minerals, there is a lack of proper consultation and public participation conducted on the impacts of Seabed mining in the Marine Ecosystem.

Free Prior Informed Consent is a principle protected by international human rights standards that state, 'all peoples have the right to self-determination' and – linked to the right to self-determination – 'all peoples have the right to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development'. Backing FPIC is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Based on our experience and our cultural lifestyle we see that there is no justification or need for Seabed Mining when we have Treaties already signed and recognized by the UN such as the BBJN and the CBD that should take precedence.

We now would like to call on the ISA who has the jurisdiction to recognize the Law of the Sea Treaty as the "Common Heritage of Humankind" and put a ban on further exploration and call for cancellation of existing exploration contracts.

In Papua New Guinea we have learned that Deep Sea Mining is dangerous for our sea, our livelihoods, our economy and our culture. Therefore we are calling for the precautionary principle to be applied and more consultation on the impact of Seabed Mining.

As Island communities Climate Change is already having an adverse impact on our daily survival and seabed mining is an additional burden to food security and our culture.

With that, I would like to conclude Madam Facilitator by reminding us of the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon statement which reads "There can be no development for indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent and without them being involved in every step. These fundamental principles are enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."