

Thank you Mr President.

New Zealand would like to thank you, and the Belgian delegation, for your efforts in crafting the package of financial and administrative decisions that are before us today, including the decision on strengthening financial governance and transparency within the ISU.

New Zealand understands the proposed decision as a creative effort to address some of the financial uncertainty that has hampered the work of the ISU in the past and that saw the GICHD pick up a substantial bill for States Parties in 2014. Although we would have preferred a more flexible approach we welcome this effort and support the decision's core principles— namely the establishment of a buffer, the introduction of four year work plans and budgets, and the hosting of annual pledging conferences. We think that, together, these elements should provide greater certainty around the financial resources available to the ISU and should encourage prudent financial management by all relevant parties. We thank Belgium too for its generous financial contribution.

At the same time, of course, New Zealand remains of the view that moving to a hybrid funding model would also help address the financial challenges faced by the ISU. We hope that States Parties will continue to consider this option in the future and are of the view that such consideration would be entirely consistent with the decision before us.

We are also of the view that nothing in any of the decisions taken by the 14th MSP can tie the hands of future such meetings – each MSP is a sovereign decision-making authority which has the flexibility to take decisions, including budget decisions, based on all the information available to it at the time. With that in mind I would also like to support the statement made by the distinguished representative from Australia with respect to the steps can be taken to ensure that paragraph 4.5 of the decision does not operate in an unnecessarily restrictive way to the detriment of the ISU and the valuable assistance it provides to States Parties.

Finally, Mr President, I would like to note that New Zealand will very soon make a voluntary funding contribution commensurate with what our contribution would be under an assessed model.

Thank you.