



The Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) Statement to Second Session of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

- *Item 6: Development of substantive recommendations on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.*
 - o *Informal working group on capacity building and technology transfer.*

Thursday 1 September 2016

Thank you Madam Facilitator. Since it is our first time to take the floor, I would like to echo others in expressing our full confidence in your leadership in guiding this important discussion.

The Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) is an Ocean Think and Do Tank as well as NGO, that has been actively engaged in capacity building on maritime issues and ocean governance. We would like to make two points in this intervention.

Firstly, capacity building requires long-term commitment and dedication. As references were kindly made by some delegations, our Institute for over 20 years has been providing scholarships to master's students from developing countries at the World Maritime University (WMU). Since its inception, over 550 scholarships have been provided. Touching upon the issue of brain drain, we would like to point out that building a strong alumni network is crucial. Our Institute maintains and updates a database of alumni, and also organizes face-to-face reunions in various ways. This global network

of professionals is an excellent pool of human resources, networking, mutual learning, and a base of international cooperation. We would like to repeat that after solid academic training experience, follow-up is also key.

Secondly, in order to pursue the goal of capacity development on BBNJ, as stated by a number of delegations, it is crucial to have participation and commitments from multiple stakeholders ranging from governments, IGOs, NGOs, the academia, the business sector, philanthropic organizations, and so on. The coordination and cooperation among these organizations, bringing in their competences, resources, and networks, will be an essential part of effective capacity development for the conservation and sustainable management of BBNJ.

In this regard, I would like to introduce an example of a platform for collaboration and project implementation. Recently, aiming to reorient ourselves as a Think & Do Tank, we proposed and established the Islands and Oceans Network (IO-Net) at SIDS 2014 as a collaborative network for organizations and individuals to voluntarily coordinate and collaborate their efforts for *Better Conservation and Management of Islands and their Surrounding Ocean Areas*. At the moment, I am glad to see that governments, universities, business people, and volunteers, both from the Pacific island States and international society, and including international and regional organizations, have expressed their interests and willingness to take part in this endeavor, based on the spirit of collaboration, partnership and innovation. I hope this example will help further your deliberations.

We all have to play our part in advancing capacity building efforts, and I would like to reiterate the importance of broad and active participation at all levels.

Thank you madam facilitator.

Statement provided by Mr. Hiroshi Terashima, President, the Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF).