



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE KINGDOM OF TONGA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Tonga Attends the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the International Seabed Authority**

**Kingston Jamaica, Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

Tonga was represented again at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Kingston Jamaica. The annual meeting of states parties had discussed issues related to the exploration and exploitation of seabed minerals from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July. Tonga's delegation was led by the Kingdom's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations H.E. Mr. Mahe 'U. S. Tupouniua. The delegation was also composed of the Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dr. T. Suka Mangisi, Deputy CEO for Lands and Natural Resources Mr. Taaniela Kula, and Legal Counsel Ms. Rose Kautoke of the Attorney General's Office. Tonga is a state member of the ISA by virtue of its membership of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). There are 167 members of the ISA

This year marks a momentous achievement for Tonga at the ISA as it is Tonga's first year to sit on the 33-member Council after being elected for the first time to the body in 2014 for a term of 4 years. The Council is the executive organ of the ISA. Tonga also represented the Pacific Island delegations on a number of issues at the meeting as Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) – the 12-member group of Pacific Island countries with presence at the United Nations in New York. Tonga has been Chair of PSIDS since October 2014. Tonga had also been appointed by the ISA member states of the Asia-Pacific Group, to be Coordinator of the membership on ISA issues for the year 2015 – 2016.

The ISA is an autonomous body of the United Nations established under UNCLOS and the Implementing Agreement of Part XI of UNCLOS. The ISA deals specifically with the administration and regulation of activities in what is called the Area (the seabed beyond national jurisdiction). The Secretariat of the ISA is located in Kingston, Jamaica.

Kingston, Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015