

**International Seabed Authority Council
Greenpeace International Intervention 18 July
Agenda Item 13**

Thank you Mr Chair, and good morning delegates

I am speaking for Greenpeace International

I would like to pick up on some remarks made this morning. Firstly, we join the UK in thanking the LTC for its hard work.

As the LTC Chair has said nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, and as Singapore said, it is important to develop the environmental regulations in tandem. This is particularly important as the environmental regulations are not yet drafted, and there are a number of important entry points in the Working Draft which may have to be modified by the environmental regulations. To name a few examples, these include the environmental impact assessments, the independent scientific input into those assessments and the public comment, the revision of those EIAs and the consequential inclusion of the outputs of the EIAs into the Plans of Work. Also important are the strategic environmental management plans, impact and preservation reference zones and other protected areas, and liability and sustainability funds. All these are strong reasons for developing the environmental regulations in tandem

We are mindful that the responsibility to ensure compliance and liability for damage is mandated by Article 139 of the Convention, and compensation for damage caused by pollution the marine environment, and cooperation to that end, is mandated by article 235, which suggests a compensation fund, which was also suggested by the Seabed Disputes Chamber. These matters also have relevance to the financial mechanism, so it is important that they are addressed promptly. The Legal Working Group mentioned by the Netherlands and suggested by the LTC in its annex, on page 19, to be established, to consider, among other things, an environmental liability trust fund, is, we suggest, a priority to develop in tandem.

Mr Chair, all of these matters are crucial to ensure the protection and preservation of the marine environment as well as to the common heritage of mankind.

We look forward to progressing these matters, with other delegates, in workshops and throughout the year, and, as Singapore noted, to develop the environmental matters in tandem with other matters, and with stakeholder participation, and, as was underlined by the interim art 154 report, to enhance transparency as we move forward.

Thank you Mr Chair