

**IUCN Intervention on the Report of the Chair of the LTC Agenda Item 10 15 July 2016**

Thank you Mr President and Mr. Chair for the report on the hard work of the LTC. IUCN joins its voice in sorrow for the loss of life in Nice and wherever terrorism cuts short the lives of innocent people.

I am speaking on behalf of IUCN but would also like to support prior comments by our colleagues from Greenpeace International, WWF and DSCC. IUCN would like to make four short points on the overall report of the Legal and Technical Commission.

First, IUCN would like to stress the importance of the reporting of environmental data in full in 2017, as highlighted in Paragraph 19.e. IUCN hopes that this data will soon be made fully and openly available to the international scientific community, in accordance with Art. 15 (2) of Annex III to UNCLOS. The sharing of such environmental data is an essential component of sharing the benefits from the common heritage of mankind.

Second, IUCN welcomes the recommendations to revise the guidance for contractors for the assessment of environmental impacts to reflect best environmental practices and best available technologies. IUCN also welcomes the envisaged future work regarding the expansion of APEIs in the Clarion Clipperton Zone. These are both important steps towards ensuring the incorporation of the new and emerging science and technologies in the work of the Authority. We heard many important findings and recommendations from the JPI Oceans project yesterday and other side events this week and next.

Third, with respect to the draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, IUCN welcomes the opportunity for broad stakeholder engagement and consultation. IUCN would also like to underscore the importance of strongly linking the future environmental regulations to the substantive obligations of contractors, for example by ensuring that the results of EIAs are fully incorporated into the contractors' plans of work and by linking the plans of work with any regional environmental management plans. Regarding the workshop report on environmental assessment and management mentioned in Para 36 organized by Griffith Law School and the Authority in Surfer's Paradise, in May, IUCN hopes that this report might be posted on the ISA website so that members of Council and the Assembly and other stakeholders can consider the report in their review of the draft exploitation regulations.

Fourth, with respect to the LTC's consideration of the interim report of the Article 154 review, IUCN welcomed the opportunity to observe the open session, and hopes provision can be made for more frequent open sessions on the many matters that do not require strict confidentiality. In that respect, IUCN welcomes the support by the LTC to develop a stakeholder consultation and engagement strategy (paragraph 53). We look forward to discussing other aspects of the interim report and its many recommendations in the Assembly

In conclusion, IUCN thanks the LTC for its hard work in the face of escalating demands including its confirming the need for a stakeholder engagement strategy and for recognising that the report of the interim review committee pursuant to article 154 is a wake-up call for the Authority.

Thank you Mr Chair