

Greenpeace intervention Council 11 August 2017 ISA session 23

Thank you Mr President

We join other delegations in congratulating you and thanking Jamaica for its hospitality. We also join others in thanking the Chairman and the members of the LTC for their hard work.

In paragraph 23 the LTC notes the establishment of a liability and responsibility working group. Greenpeace and DSCC have long called for progress on this issue and particularly for a liability fund, as suggested by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of ITLOS. We welcome the establishment of the working group and request that both member States and stakeholders be permitted to attend and observe and make submissions to the working group in the interests of transparency. We welcome China's intervention in this respect.

We have made available a briefing on liability matters on the table outside and it is available on the DSCC website savetheseas.org under the publications tab.

Mr Chair, we will wait until Monday to make further comments on the development of the exploitation regulations, but we welcome the observation in paragraph 17 that transparency remains an overarching theme in stakeholder responses. We look forward to making submissions on the draft regulations. At the same time, we do want to renew our call for the LTC to open its meetings to submissions and observers. We believe that this would help the LTC gain the information it needs to carry on its important work. We note that Recommendation 16 of the Article 154 Review Committee encourages the LTC to hold more open meetings.

We also welcome the intervention of the Netherlands relating to EBSAs and the need to integrate work and share information with other international organizations, as well as New Zealand's recent intervention. As an organization which attends CBD meetings as well as BBNJ meetings, Greenpeace stands ready to help when it can with the sharing of this type of environmental information.

Further, we support Australia's comments on environmental management plans, and we suggest that a structured series of open workshops and consultation with states and stakeholders is essential to their development and review.

Finally, Mr Chair, we note the observation in paragraph 33 that the LTC was unable to consider a lengthy list of matters. We suggest that it is inevitable that the workload of the LTC will only grow. We therefore join the DSCC in suggesting an Environment Committee to advise the Council on environmental and scientific matters, which we believe would assist with this overload problem. The DSCC brief, also available at the same website, goes into this suggestion in some detail, and we will discuss these matters further in the context of the article 154 review in the Assembly.

Thank you Mr President