

## Greenpeace Intervention at the 25<sup>th</sup> ISA Assembly

25th Anniversary of ISA

Kingston, 25 July 2019

Thank you Madame President,

Dear delegates,

On this 25th Anniversary of the International Seabed Authority, we would like to take the opportunity to look forward to the next 25 years of our oceans and our planet - and to consider the vital role that each of us in this room has to play in ensuring a safe future.

Never has the need for global collaboration been greater in addressing the mounting pressures on our natural world. Our global oceans sustain life on earth, yet only 1% are properly protected. They face multiple threats from overfishing, the impacts of climate change, acidification, plastic pollution and deep seabed mining.

Global cooperation, vision and ambition hold the keys to addressing these critical threats. We need multilateral institutions that are fit for purpose, which are focused on the primary goals of environmental protection and sustainable development.

Electrifying our energy and transport systems is vital for containing global warming to 1.5 degrees. However, this must not come at the expense of our natural ecosystems - on land or at sea. These have intrinsic value, as well as being vital carbon stores.

The narrow trade-off between deep seabed mining and terrestrial mining is therefore misguided. Instead, much greater political effort and attention should be directed towards adapting our consumption habits, promoting more efficient product design and use of materials that have already been extracted, transforming our economies and delivering a genuinely circular economy without waste.

A few of you have approached us to ask whether we feel optimistic or pessimistic for the future on this planet. Our answer is simple: the power is in your hands - the hands of governments, corporations and people - over the next 18 months to take collective action and change the course of how our global economy works and how our natural ecosystems are protected.

We call on you, as representatives of your governments, to heed the words of scientists and concerned citizens across the world to bring about a **moratorium** on deep seabed mining, as a renewed commitment to the precautionary principle. With so much more to understand about the deep sea and amidst a climate emergency, we cannot have confidence that deep seabed mining is safe for the ocean.

We must stop extracting and exploiting fossil fuels and new metals, and instead invest in sustainable and efficient technology and infrastructure that doesn't cost the Earth. We are also calling on governments to support an ambitious Global Ocean Treaty to deliver comprehensive protection for international waters.

Now is the time for political will and action. We look forward to working with you all over the next 18 months to channel creativity and ambition into building a healthy future for our oceans and all of us who rely on them.

Thank you for the continued transparency of this Assembly to enable this conversation to happen.

Thank you Madame President.