

Thank you Madame President,

Dear delegates,

In relation to Communication and Outreach Activities (para 37-40, SG Report), we note that the ISA Secretariat has recently promoted deep seabed mining as a low carbon solution. Green solutions must not risk catastrophic harm to our oceans but rather focus on tackling inefficient use of resources and overconsumption. For instance, just 16% of the metals used in our phones and computers are recycled today.

To tackle the climate and nature emergencies, we need nothing less than a revolution in our energy systems and industries, and in how natural resources are used and managed. That means not opening up the largest ecosystem on Earth to industrial mineral extraction, while supporting a transformation to 100% renewable energy. Indeed, several studies have confirmed that this vital energy transition is possible without deep sea mining. The barrier to achieving it is not technical, but an issue of political will.

Many of you may have seen Greenpeace's report, *In Deep Water*, and the reply on the ISA's home page of their website. Our ship *Esperanza* is now anchored in Kingston, having sailed directly from the Lost City in the mid-Atlantic. We welcome the opportunity to speak here today.

Much has changed since the establishment of the ISA. On this 25th Anniversary, we face a climate emergency and unprecedented global biodiversity loss. People throughout the world, including hundreds of thousands of students whose future is at stake, are marching on the streets to demand urgent action from their governments.

The recently published Global Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services warns that one million species are at risk of extinction. 66% of the ocean is experiencing multiple human pressures and the richness and abundance of marine life is in decline. We are increasingly exceeding planetary boundaries, that are critical to our collective survival.

For some time now, scientists have warned that deep seabed mining would cause inevitable and irreversible biodiversity loss. Today, a group of 27 eminent scientists led by Professor Gretchen Frueh-Green, who discovered the unique Lost City, reiterate this warning that deep seabed mining risks unavoidable damage to deep sea ecosystems and further damage to the global climate.

Last year, over 50 NGOs submitted comments to the ISA Strategic Plan (para 46, SG Report), asking that no licenses be granted for deep seabed mining, pending a public and transparent debate about its potential impacts for the Planet and humankind. This has not been addressed. Voices calling for a moratorium on deep seabed mining are growing. The European Parliament, made up of elected representatives from 28 States represented at the ISA, has called for a moratorium on deep seabed mining, as has the European fisheries advisory group the Long-Distance Advisory Committee.

With respect to the participation in the high seas (or BBNJ) treaty discussion (paras 108-110 SG Report), we need Governments to seize this golden opportunity to turn the tide. By 2020, we need to conclude

negotiations for a new Global Ocean Treaty that will break with business as usual, overcome existing fragmentation and achieve comprehensive protection for international waters. This needs to be done through enabling the establishment of fully protected marine protected areas and setting robust environmental safeguards that would protect marine life from the cumulative impacts of human activities, climate change and ocean acidification.

We do not need deep seabed mining. Instead, we need effective ocean protection and a strong and holistic Global Ocean Treaty in 2020.

Thank you Madame President