

Bonjour à toutes et à toutes, Monsieur le Président, chers délégués,

Je m'appelle Anne-Sophie Roux, je fais partie d'un réseau international de jeunes engagés pour l'océan, la Sustainable Ocean Alliance, dont je suis la représentante en France.

Ici, avec la Deep Sea Conservation, je fais partie des quelques jeunes envoyés siéger dans ces négociations, qui sont absolument cruciales pour notre génération.

Car cette génération, tout comme les suivantes, fait déjà face aux conséquences dramatiques de la crise environnementale. Et l'exploitation minière des fonds marins ne ferait que l'empirer.

Or, face à l'accélération de la crise climatique, l'océan est notre plus grand allié. Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de le compromettre.

Face à la 6e extinction de masse, nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de rayer de la carte des espèces entières que les scientifiques commencent tout juste à découvrir et à comprendre.

*(ENG translation)*

*Good morning to all, Mr. President, dear delegates,*

*My name is Anne-Sophie Roux, I am part of an international network of young people committed to the ocean, the Sustainable Ocean Alliance, of which I am the representative in France.*

*Here, with Deep Sea Conservation, I am one of the few young people sent to sit in on these negotiations, which are absolutely crucial for our generation.*

*Because this generation, like the next, is already facing the dramatic consequences of the environmental crisis. And seabed mining would only make it worse.*

*As the climate crisis accelerates, the ocean is our greatest ally. We cannot afford to compromise it.*

*In the face of the 6th mass extinction, we cannot afford to wipe out entire species that scientists are just beginning to discover and understand.*

I would like to thank France for joining the growing movement of States that raise the alarm on the necessity to oppose the adoption of the mining code and the approval of mining contracts.

I would like to congratulate France for setting this level of ambition to stop deep seabed mining. France and the States in this room have made international commitments to halt and reverse

biodiversity loss. Today, I can say that I am proud that my country is upholding these commitments.

We are here, at this stage, thanks to a mobilization that started with Palau, Fiji, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia - the countries of the Global Alliance of Countries calling for a Moratorium on deep seabed mining in the Pacific and around the world.

We are here thanks to Chile, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Spain, Germany, Panama, and Ecuador, who have made bold political decisions that put nature where it should be: front and center.

We are here thanks to the Global Alliance of Parliamentarians that was announced at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon.

We are here thanks to the massive civil society and youth mobilization, online and on the field, in France and all over the world.

So the vision is here. And we should not forget that there is an agenda for 2023 and we need to secure that there is no mining code adopted and no exploitation starting.

In response to those who have raised UNCLOS: As France said, our work should meet the challenges of today, including biodiversity. Let us not find obstacles and build fences, but instead find pathways and bridges to protect the ocean. Already BBNJ is close to being finalised. We need that kind of creativity and openness to moving forwards.

The deep ocean is needed to mitigate the climate crisis.

The deep ocean is needed to not make the collapse of biodiversity worse.

The deep ocean is needed to sustain living conditions on Earth.

The deep ocean is the common heritage of human and non-human kind.

This is our duty to protect it.

Thank you Mr. President for the floor.