

Greenpeace International Intervention at the 27th Session of the International Seabed Authority

Kingston, 22 March 2022

Thank you Mr President,

Dear Delegates,

Greenpeace International expresses our concern over the presentation we witnessed this morning on behalf of MIT. Scientists have already clearly told us that ecosystems on the deep seabed cannot recover from disruption on human time scales. We know from our scientists that deep sea ecosystems cannot be restored once destroyed or mitigated by promoting recovery in an alternate location. Destruction of life on the deep seabed -of species we often don't even know yet- means losing ecosystems and most probably entire forms of life we will never see again, and that needs to be part of the discussion here.

This kind of economic valuation completely fails to capture the services provided by deep sea ecosystems, which are essential, as the DSCC pointed out yesterday. It is unacceptable at any cost to damage functions that are major contributors to a stable climate and the air we breathe, particularly with all the unknowns that remain on the impacts of this nascent industry.

One thing is clear: as several States were pointing out yesterday, we do not yet have the science needed to understand the full consequences of moving forward with this industry, and that a moratorium on its practice is the only rational way forward

Thank you Mr President