

# Greenpeace International Intervention at the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Seabed Authority

Kingston, 21 March 2022

Thank you Mr President,

Dear Delegates,

Greenpeace International joins the many ISA member states who called for an end to war, and applauds the solidarity for peace demonstrated in this room this morning. We also align ourselves with the comments made by the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition. Thank you also to Jamaica for hosting this meeting.

As we begin this 27th Session of the ISA, Greenpeace International remains extremely concerned about the way things are moving forward within this international organisation. With the triggering of the two-year rule by Nauru last June, there appears to be a heightened pace within the ISA to rush into seabed mining in spite of its legal obligations, first and foremost, to ensure the protection of the marine environment, including the seabed, which is the common heritage of humankind.

We call on the Council to listen to the 621 scientists that have signed a statement warning of the loss of biodiversity on ecosystem functioning, to the recent resolution of the IUCN World Conservation Congress and to the European Parliament, among others - all of which have called for a moratorium on deep-sea mining. We remind Member States that deep sea mining companies have been telling us that seabed minerals are critical for the clean energy transition. Yet since the Council last met in December, French automaker Renault and US automaker Rivian have committed to never to use deep sea minerals in their supply chains and are calling on governments to support a moratorium on this reckless practice. They join prominent leaders in the tech, EV and battery sectors who have already made such commitments, including BMW, Volkswagen, Volvo Group, Scania, Google and Samsung. These commitments raise doubts among the public and investors alike that if this sector is supposed to drive the market for deep seabed minerals, will a market exist for them at all?

**We call on State parties to the ISA - many who have made bold public commitments for ocean protection in other fora, including during the 4th Intergovernmental Conference on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) which just concluded 3 days ago at UN Headquarters in New York - to act and put the brakes on this process, which is not inevitable and which is out of step with the rest of the world.**

Thank you Mr. President