

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

Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment:

Kingston, 22 July 2022

Thank you Madam Facilitator,

As we resume discussion on environmental regulations that may someday govern a commercial seabed mining industry, Greenpeace International would like to acknowledge the group of Jamaican youth who took time off of work and school to gather outside our meeting space over the break. The Jamaican Climate Change Youth Council (JCCYC) represents the best of our next generation. And I say that as a Jamaican myself. They are engaged in policy debates, globally aware, and have elevated the profile of the climate crisis across Jamaican society, influencing the public and government alike. They chose to gather outside today in solidarity with civil society, youth voices and island communities around the world who do not have a say in this forum - either because they were directly excluded by the Secretariat's restrictions, or because the financial, logistical and social cost is just too high to travel here - despite the importance of this matter to their hearts and to their lives.

Members of the JCCYC also joined us over the lunch break at the AC Hotel, along with representatives of the Jamaican Environmental Trust (JET), the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG), and the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition. We gathered with invited press to discuss the relevance of deep sea mining to island communities, from Jamaica to the Pacific. We are intervening now to relay this because these voices are all too often excluded from these conversations, especially here where it matters the most.

There are a range of views on what the exact impacts of deep sea mining will be. Should those impacts affect human communities - the Contractors, state representatives and officials gathered here are not likely to be among the first to be negatively affected. The potential for sedimentation of reefs, degradation of fisheries, water pollution, wildlife decline and accelerated impacts of climate change will affect island and coastal communities first and foremost. And our youth will be the ones to bear the burden of those impacts throughout their lifetime and that of their children.

Madam Facilitator, it is not our intent to divert attention from the important work you are leading. But moving forward, we must acknowledge all stakeholders in this process and bring a more diverse range of voices into this dialogue. This is not simply a financial and political negotiation between Contractors, State Parties and the Authority. People's lives and livelihoods are at

stake. Listen to them. Choose appropriate venues for broad participation, re-open side events, invite youth and island leaders to testify before you, approve media credentials for all that apply. Be transparent. Our youth demand it, and their lives may depend upon it.

Thank you Madam Facilitator