

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

Assembly - Proposed amendments to Rule 82 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly

Kingston, 3 August 2022

Thank you Mr. Acting President.

We fully support the intervention of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and would like to stress that the role of contractors at the ISA, is as contractors sponsored by Member States, whose role it is to control these contractors and define the regulations and policies they are subject to.

Moreover, it is highly exceptional in the multilateral system that individual companies would acquire observer status, in the same way as individual citizens don't request it.

Looking at the list of corporate interests already having obtained observer status at the ISA, we consider that there already is ample opportunity for them to intervene on behalf of the industries they represent.

The proposal of Belgium also risks undermining civil society by suggesting that States should promote that NGOs, who have already gained observer status a long time ago, should organise through an association of NGOs. Organisations such as Greenpeace represent the voices of millions of citizens across the world, while a contractor only represents itself.

Last, let us bear in mind that contractors have a very high level of access to information shared with the LTC that isn't transparently shared with ISA Member States and observers. If they would be granted observer status, no other stakeholder involved would have the privilege of holding all these cards in their hands.

Therefore we believe this amendment should not be accepted.

Thank you Mr Acting President.