

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

Assembly - 40th Anniversary of UNCLOS

Kingston, 1 August 2022

Thank you Mr. President,
And thank you to the people and the government of Jamaica for their very warm welcome and their hospitality especially on this very special day, Emancipation Day.

As it's the first time we are taking the floor in this session, we congratulate the President elect and Vice President and all delegations who were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Dear excellencies, delegates and fellow observers,

I make this intervention on behalf of Greenpeace International, The Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) and the Pacific Blue Line (PBL) Collective representing national, regional and southern based Civil Society Organizations in the Pacific.

As many have already pointed out, UNCLOS continues to be a crucial convention for the Oceans 40 years after its inception. However, the multilateral legal framework and the institutions it sets in place, need to be adapted and undergo much-needed changes to reflect the existential risks that deep sea mining poses on a planetary scale and within the context of the climate emergency we are facing today.

Considering the weaknesses in the existing regime governing the oceans and the need to reinstate the common heritage of humankind, the PBL collective

- I. supports the call for a second level of due diligence regarding human rights and in particular the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the rights of Nature;
- li. calls on this Assembly to support an evidence-based approach to ocean governance in policy making, in accordance with the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent and the Precautionary Principle;
- lii. calls for appropriate reform of the ISA to strengthen transparency and to ensure accountability and due diligence in its operations in response to the widespread concerns about the lack thereof.

We re-emphasise our call on delegations to support the principle of DO NO HARM, particularly given the transboundary nature of harm that will result from deep-sea mining activities. Environmental regulations must prioritise the protection of the marine environment, the common heritage of humankind.

Finally, I reiterate the Pacific collective's call for a global stop to deep sea mining - not just a temporary break on it – both within national jurisdictions and in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

I thank you Mr President.