

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

Informal Working on Institutional Matters:

Kingston, 27 July 2022

Madam Co-Facilitators,

This intervention is 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 it is the first time we take the floor in this working group, please allow me to briefly expand on the lived experiences and cautionary tale for the rest of the world that the Pacific experience provides on why the international community needs to **stop - not just put a temporary break on- deep sea mining** – both within national jurisdictions and in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Our communities demand this of decision makers.
- The proposal to extract metals from the deep seabed for profit and gain, using technologies barely tried, nor tested or approved elsewhere, threatens the health of our ocean which is our lifeline and our lifeforce. **The Pacific CSO collective is fiercely resisting this perilous pursuit.**
- As deliberations on draft regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area continue, we 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 should protect the marine environment, the common heritage of humankind and by extension the people in the region instead of establishing a legally permissible level of harm without fully understanding the true impact of industrial mining on the fragile ecosystem of the deep ocean.

- As the ISA continues to convene to set standards and regulations, we remain concerned with the lack of transparency particularly with citizens and communities from neighboring coastal states engagement.
- I reiterate our Pacific call:
 - o for recognition that, as our common heritage, the ocean floor or seabed demands our common responsibility for its protection;
 - o for states to join the growing ranks of governments, scientific authorities, CSOs, global leaders and indigenous groups across the world in opposing the rush to mine the ocean floor and, in doing so, destroy our common heritage; and
 - o on the support for a global stop on Deep Sea Mining.
- We also want to briefly refer to the comments of Nauru made yesterday. Whilst we respect Nauru as a sovereign State and also as a fellow Pacific nation, the matter at hand is the common heritage of humankind in international waters.
- As pointed out earlier, the ocean is a unitary whole, it does not respect jurisdictional boundaries meaning that the impacts of deep-sea mining will affect all of us.

Therefore, all of us, States and civil society alike, must use our voice in these discussions. However, it cannot go unsaid that allowing The Metals Company, a multinational company to circumvent processes to mine the ocean Area, has attracted enormous international concern. It would be wrong if this concern was not reflected here at the ISA. We believe that freedom of expression is fundamental, as is protection of the global ocean.

- Finally, Pacific Blue Line collective supports new and ambitious ocean action. Particularly calling for new scientific research to better understand carbon storage in the deep seabed, call to address the weaknesses in the existing regime governing oceans and the need for appropriate reforms of the ISA.

I thank you