

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

3rd Meeting of the Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment.

Kingston, 1 Nov 2022

Thank you Madame Facilitator,

As we resume discussion on environmental regulations, Greenpeace International aligns strongly with the intervention of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition. As this is our first time to take the floor this meeting, we also thank the country of Jamaica for welcoming us here, and facilitating the return to this comfortable meeting space. We also wish to express condolences, solidarity and shared grief with the people of South Korea and India in the aftermath of the recent tragedies.

Beyond what was shared by the DSCC we wish to emphasize the ongoing importance of transparency within the ISA to bring it better into global norms for multilateral bodies, and one fit for purpose with its mandate to protect what is referred to as the Common Heritage of Humankind - the global seabed. The process in which the recent exploration license was granted to NORI to authorize the testing they are currently undertaking in the Clarion Clipperton Zone occurred without consultation with stakeholders or member states alike, was announced publicly by the contractor before the Authority, and was done so in a way that the contractor was able to have ships, science crew, and logistics staged and ready in advance of any public announcement. The need for the ISA to radically improve transparency and accountability was thrown into sharp relief by Eric Lipton's reporting in the *New York Times* last month. The alleged release of confidential data to The Metals Company's predecessor, Nautilus Minerals is of particular concern.

Finally, Greenpeace International wishes to address the human cost of developing this industry. We are well aware of the impacts it will have on biodiversity and to ocean wildlife. But this is not just about sea creatures and ocean health. Pasifika communities have been raising alarm bells now for years because of the unknown consequences to fish stocks, sedimentation of reefs, and disruption of the ocean's critically important carbon cycle. Their voices also make it clear that we are risking perpetuation of an old and worn pattern of colonialism - in which wealthy corporations and State actors come into the Pacific, exploit what they want, and leave nothing truly of value for the People who are the rightful heirs to the region, and whose cultural and spiritual values go far beyond tunnel-visioned obsession with extraction rather than a transformational and circular economy.

In closing, Greenpeace applauds the states who are now openly advocating for a moratorium - or precautionary pause - to the development of commercial scale deep sea mining. And we stand in solidarity with coastal and island communities - from across the Pacific to right here in Jamaica, that are calling on you to consider their lives before imagined riches that will largely not benefit them.

Thank you Madame Facilitator