

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

Kingston, 30 March 2022

Thank you Mr Chair,

Dear Delegates,

Greenpeace International aligns itself with the statements made by the DSCC and Earthworks, and the concerns expressed by the delegate from Chile.

We thank the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission for its report on the work of the Commission at the first part of the twenty-seventh session. However, despite the opportunity to hear the report now, transparency remains an issue within the LTC and therefore, the ISA as a whole.

The recommendations agreed at the LTC carry great weight with the decisions and direction taken by the Council, which in turns means that what is discussed within the LTC has direct bearing on the future of the international seabed. No proceedings with direct bearing on the fate of nearly half of the surface area of the planet should be undertaken without the presence and input of civil society observers.

Greenpeace International urges the Secretariat and Member States of the ISA to rethink the structure and transparency of the ISA as a whole. Throughout the last week and a half we continue to come to the conclusion that there is no way this organization can ensure that deep sea mining will not result in loss of biodiversity. We lack the science, we lack the knowledge, and we even lack the time, as we witness how the ISA rushes the adoption of the mining code. We will continue to remind member States their duty to the preservation of the marine environment. That also requires that the work of the LTC be transparent and its sessions open to observers.

Thank you Chair