



Statement by WWF International for 29th Session of the International Seabed Authority Assembly on Agenda, Item 8: Annual report of the Secretary-General

Thank you Mister/Madam President, Distinguished delegates,

As we gather here today, WWF wishes to draw your attention to the critical importance of our oceans and the urgent need for their protection. Our oceans are not just vast bodies of water; they are the lifeblood of our planet, regulating climate, providing food, and supporting biodiversity. Protecting this invaluable resource is essential.

We are all bound by obligations under various international agreements and commitments like the Kuming Montreal agreement and BBNJ that emphasize the protection of the marine environment. Deep seabed mining threatens these commitments.

The argument that these minerals are essential for the green transition is misleading. Rapid advances in material efficiency, resource substitution, and circular economy are bringing towards a shift in the type of minerals needed, and the amount. One example of such a shift is in the development of batteries for eclectic vehicles, towards lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, that do not require cobalt and nickel—metals often targeted by deep seabed miners. These batteries now comprise 42% of the global battery market, showcasing a substantial reduction in the need for these minerals.

Even major companies involved in the energy transition, such as Google, BMW, SAP and Volvo, have expressed their opposition to deep-sea mining. They are excluding these minerals from their supply chains and calling for a moratorium.

As we are discussing the common heritage of humankind, we must ensure an inclusive conversation, including all members and observers of the International Seabed Authority, Indigenous Peoples and civil society. Developed countries should consider providing financial support to ensure inclusive participation in these crucial discussions through the voluntary trust fund.



WWF urges governments to join the growing call for a global moratorium on deep seabed mining, ensuring that all activities in the Area benefit humankind, both current and future generations, as required by UNCLOS. Extraction should not proceed until we fully understand the environmental, social, and economic risks, explore all alternatives, and implement comprehensive measures to protect the marine environment.

The financial benefits of deep-sea mining for a few come at a high price for many, including future generations. We must think deeply and act decisively to protect our oceans and our planet.

Let us commit to protecting our oceans and safeguarding our planet for those who are here now, and those that will inherit it.

Thank you Madam/Mister President.