

Statement (Intervention) of Sustainable Ocean Alliance on item 8.

Thank you, Mr. President, Distinguished delegates, for granting us the floor. We want to start by expressing our deepest gratitude to Mr. President of Palau and Vanuatu for honoring ours and future generations. This week marks the first anniversary of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance's accreditation. Representing young people globally, we are honored to participate as observers in these crucial meetings, which will have lasting impacts on our lives and those of future generations.

During this Assembly meeting, we are facing decisions of immense importance for the well-being of humankind, including the discussion of a General Policy to ensure effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects. Considering our responsibility to represent the voice of youth, we emphasize that future generations have the right to inherit a healthy deep ocean. A right currently threatened by the triple planetary crisis we face, that requests urgent collective action. Therefore, we urge all states to support a process for a General Policy.

Related to item 8, we highlight the ISA's report on the implementation of the action plan in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science, which underlines the Authority's role in serving as a global driving force in fostering deep-sea research. Considering the limited knowledge we still have on deep-sea ecosystems, we must ensure that the process of a general policy prioritizes science. We can't effectively protect what we don't know or understand.

Another significant decision this week is the election of the Secretary-General. The ISA has the responsibility to protect 54% of the world's seabed, a task that requires transparency, accountability, and scientific integrity. We ask that the decision made during this week will be aligned with these core values for young and future generations, after all it's our future that you are deciding.

We can't forget that all delegations' contributions to this discussion need to ensure the benefit of all humankind. We want to ask you to reflect: What will generations 100 years from now say about the decisions we are making this week?

Thank you for your attention.