

IUCN Statement on Agenda Item 20 (Other Matters)

Delivered on 28 March 2025.

Thank you for giving us the floor, Mr President, and thank you for the statement this morning, Madame Secretary-General.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) would like to place on record our concern with this development, namely, the singular and continued persistence by one private entity, for exploitation activities to commence in the absence of rules, regulations and procedures established by the Authority, and now, the possibility of proceeding even outside of the Authority and in contradiction with international law.

Mr President,

At the 2021 IUCN Congress in Marseille, IUCN Members voted to adopt [Resolution 122](#) calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining unless and until certain conditions are met, which includes the need for robust and science-based regulations.

The mere suggestion that exploitation activities might commence at this stage, where none of the conditions in Resolution 122 have been met, is unacceptable. Such pressure is certainly unwarranted, given that all member states of the Authority are engaging in good faith negotiations of the rules, regulations and procedures, which will eventually determine if and when exploitation activities can commence, and if so, under what conditions and parameters.

The Convention sets a very high bar for these negotiations and requires consensus among all members of the Council, because we are talking about the Common Heritage of (Hu)mankind, the benefit of humanity as a whole, and the need to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from potentially destructive and irreparable activities that will very likely cause far more harm than good.

Finally, we would like to recall the decisions adopted by the Council in 2023 expressing that commercial exploitation should not commence in the absence of regulations. For our delegation, that highly commendable decision was taken by consensus and is not a negotiable matter. It is indeed regrettable that the need to discuss this matter arose this morning, but we are heartened by all the interventions delivered today.

I thank you.