

Opening Statement on behalf of WWF International

Thank you for giving me the floor.

On behalf of WWF International, I extend our warmest congratulations to you Madam Secretary-General on your election, and wish you every success. We especially welcome your commitments to diversity, inclusivity and transparency. You can count on our support.

We also thank the Secretariat for their continued dedication and hard work in facilitating and preparing these important discussions. And our host country of Jamaica for welcoming us again to their beautiful country.

Now, in 2025, we are at the halfway mark for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. These commitments, as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, require urgent action to protect biodiversity, transition to a sustainable economy, and safeguard the health of our ocean and our planet. Decisions made here, at the ISA, must align with these global commitments and ensure the protection of the marine environment, as mandated under UNCLOS.

There is no demonstrated need for deep seabed mining. Estimates for the demand for minerals targeted in the deep seabed remain highly uncertain. Meanwhile, rapid advancements in material efficiency, recycling, and substitution continue to change and reduce mineral demand. Leading global companies—including Volvo, Apple, Samsung, and Google—are in support of a global moratorium and exclude deep seabed minerals from their supply chains, reinforcing that deep seabed mining is neither necessary nor aligned with sustainable business practices.

At this meeting, WWF is pleased to announce the launch of our new report: **"An Analysis of the Implications of Deep Seabed Mining for the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals."**, which analyses the impact deep seabed mining could have on these commitments.

We invite all delegations to join us at the official side event on **Monday, March 24**, where we will present our findings in detail.

2025 is a defining year for the deep sea and for the ISA. WWF urges all Member States to join the many voices in support of a global **moratorium or precautionary pause on deep seabed mining**. Extraction must not proceed until the environmental, social, and economic risks are fully understood, all alternatives have been explored, and the effective protection of the marine environment is ensured. The deep seabed is our common heritage—we must not rush decisions that could have irreversible consequences for generations to come.

Think deeply—stand for the ocean, for our planet, and for future generations.

Thank you.