



WWF International Statement under Item 10 Periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President for giving me the floor. Distinguished Delegates,

Since it is the first time for us taking the floor, WWF would like to thank the Secretariat for its work and the Government and people of Jamaica for their hospitality. This Assembly meets at a pivotal time.

In order for the ISA to be fit for purpose, operate under good governance, and maintain its legitimacy and standing within the multilateral system, the implementation of Article 154 is both timely and necessary.

We would like to draw attention to several findings of particular relevance to this agenda item from a recent WWF-commissioned report on the links between deep-seabed mining and security. The report finds that governance legitimacy, scientific credibility, regulatory predictability and trust in multilateral institutions are themselves strategic assets that underpin long-term stability and security. Decisions that carry significant environmental, economic and political implications require institutions that are transparent, accountable and trusted by all stakeholders.

WWF looks forward to presenting the findings of this report more closely in the official side event scheduled for Friday at 2 pm.

WWF therefore urges Member States to comply with their legal obligations under Article 154 and agree to immediately initiate the long-overdue review of the ISA to assess whether it is effectively fulfilling its mandate to organise and control activities in the Area for the benefit of humankind as a whole.

WWF encourages Member States to ensure that the review is conducted as an independent, transparent and inclusive process, allowing for meaningful participation by Member States, scientific experts, observers, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders.

Initiating the Article 154 review would strengthen governance, reinforce confidence in ISA decision-making, and demonstrate the Authority's commitment to continuous improvement and accountability. At a time when concerns are growing about fragmentation of ocean governance and pressure on multilateral institutions globally, conducting the review without further delay would help reinforce trust in the ISA and the multilateral framework established under UNCLOS for managing the common heritage of humankind.

Thank you, Mr. President.



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