



Intervention made at the International Seabed Authority 21st Session, 17 July 2015

Thank you Mr Chair

This intervention is given on behalf of Greenpeace International and WWF and DSCC, which itself represents over 70 non-governmental organizations concerned with the deep sea.

We welcome the commitment in para 34 of the LTC report to a continued commitment to transparency.

Delegates may have seen the Avaaz petition calling for greater transparency in the ISA. Over 358,000 people have signed the petition to date in the last 24 hours, showing the great global interest in the deliberations of this Authority and moreover underlining the keen global interest in the common heritage of mankind and underlining our stewardship of that common heritage. As the 358,000 people have said, and our own combined over 9 million supporters emphasise, the ISA is the global steward of the world's common heritage.

Mr Chair, we endorse the call for greater transparency, and welcome the commitment to transparency, and call for continued stakeholder participation, not only in the exploitation regulations but in the interim period including the development of those regulations and the continued operation of this Authority in all its bodies. Specifically, we call for open sessions of the LTC: we believe it is entirely appropriate for the deliberations of the LTC on the development of the exploitation regulations to be open to observers, in the interests of good governance and the common heritage of mankind.

In relation to environmental data: need for increased data management in paragraph 37 and point 3 of annex III, we suggest that it should include a plan for data sharing and transparency in environmental data.

Mr Chair, we have through the DSCC participated in the stakeholder consultation process, and welcome the inclusion of comments and suggestions from stakeholders and the hard work done by the LTC, secretariat and consultants in integrating those and the ongoing development of the framework including the latest Version 2 of the [action plan](#).

Mr Chair, we also take this opportunity to make a brief comment on Annex III, the priority deliverables for the development of the exploitation code. We hope that delegates have seen our briefing, in partnership with WWF and DSCC. We have commented on the importance of defining serious harm, and have made suggestions in terms of significant adverse impacts, where a great deal of science has been done. We welcome the intervention of Trinidad and Tobago in that regard.

We also welcome the inclusion of responsibility and liability as a priority deliverable. We are a little puzzled by its description of the process as a long term project. Not only has ITLOS pointed to a gap in liability, and suggested a fund to fill that gap, but liability and redress is an integral part of the regulations, and we suggest needs to be developed at the same time as the regulations, as a priority deliverable, but not be described as a long term project.

Thank you