

December 8, 2021

DSCC Intervention on Item 14 (1 of 2) Report of the Finance Committee:

On the issue of the fund proposed in ISBA/26/A/24–ISBA/26/C/39, any fund such as seabed sustainability fund intended for marine scientific research should not act as a subsidy for contractors for research and development of technology.

A fund dedicated to environmental research and training, should be separate from the proposed environmental compensation fund, but nor should it be funded from an environmental fund.

Thank you, Mr President.

DSCC Intervention on Item 14 (2 of 2) Report of the Finance Committee:

We reiterate our intervention on the sustainability fund in the last item.

We support the interventions of Pew, DOSI and Earthworks on the importance of marine scientific research, as well as France, Mexico, Costa Rica, Italy, Fiji and others in their support for marine scientific research and capacity building for marine scientific research.

We fully support that the ISA should be promoting marine scientific research into the deep sea, and capacity building for such marine scientific research, to enable the ISA to advance the protection of the marine environment, while a moratorium on seabed mining is in place. This is one of the most important benefits of a moratorium on deep sea mining- being to allow space for marine scientific research to be undertaken during the Decade of Ocean Science which started this year and runs to 2030.

In the context of the BBNJ negotiations which are taking place, such marine scientific research will also enhance the access to and benefit sharing of marine genetic resources