



January 19, 2021

Dear Esteemed United Nations, International Seabed Authority, and National Representatives,

The independent science is clear and undeniable; deep-seabed mining will disrupt and harm the deep sea's unique biodiversity and the invaluable role it plays in ensuring the health of our ocean, climate, and planet. For this critical reason, and many more, we are unwavering in our belief that deep-seabed mining is a short-sighted, unjustified, and unacceptable threat to the ocean and the present and future generations that depend on it. With so much at stake, we are calling on you to stand with us and take action in support of a moratorium on deep-seabed mining for at least 10 years, in line with the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

We believe a moratorium is necessary to:

1. Undertake comprehensive and independent scientific research to better understand the deep-sea's unique biodiversity, the seabed's larger role in our ocean and climate systems, and the risks deep-seabed mining poses to the protection and prosperity of our ocean;
2. Allow appropriate time for the government and private sector to invest in and expand the circular economy and additional innovative technologies that will reduce our future reliance on extractive industries and the unsustainable linear economy;
3. Review the International Seabed Authority's (ISA) dual mandate as both the profiler and steward of the international seabed and assess if the ISA is fit-for-purpose to ensure the protection of the "common heritage of mankind"; and
4. Ensure the ISA's decision-making processes are inclusive, transparent, accountable, and adequately account for intergenerational equity.

As stated and without question, the science confirms, deep-seabed mining will lead to long-term and irreversible loss of biodiversity. Scientists also warn that impacts such as sediment plumes will multiply the damage far beyond the mining site and across boundaries, also threatening the midwater column's critical ecosystems and rich biodiversity. Additionally, deep-seabed mining very likely will have climate change implications, such as reducing the deep sea's current ability to serve as a critical carbon sink.

Beyond this, rushing forward with deep-seabed mining stands in direct conflict with many widely accepted norms and current global commitments, such as the: precautionary principle, duty to prevent transboundary harm, support for science-based, transparent decision-making, implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, negotiation of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, and the most recent IPCC report and Blue COP — not to mention the UN's mission and the vision of the UN Charter.

This logically raises the question — As a global community, how can we consider moving forward with deep-seabed mining in the face of these serious and irreversible risks given how much remains unknown and how many individuals stand to be affected?

As the generation inheriting this planet, along with those who have watched its decline over the last century, we adamantly oppose the unjustified risk of deep-seabed mining and call on you to stand with us in support of a moratorium on deep-seabed mining for at least 10 years, in line with the UN Decade of Ocean Science. Business as usual no longer is acceptable and we ask you to stand for science, stand for the ocean, and stand for the rights of current and future generations.

We sincerely thank you for your leadership and support,

[your signature]