

2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE
ONLINE STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING: INPUTS TO THE POLITICAL DECLARATION
ZERO DRAFT

23 March 2022

10:30 – 11:30 AM (EDT, New York)

Written Statement

Grove Harris (Temple of Understanding)

My main concern is that as in 12D the capitalization of marine resources, considering marine resource capital, even as linked to values, goes contrary to what is called for in 12E, which calls for honoring indigenous knowledge. My understanding of Indigenous knowledge is that it is framed in intimate relationship with nature, with the ocean, that the identity of people is totally and essentially interlinked with the ocean, and that the commodification of the ocean goes completely against this deeply held value based perspective.

My second concern is that the struggle over deep sea bed mining will be conducted by private corporations, mis guided by profit motives that do not take full responsibility for the full life cycle (and let's be clear, that means including the death to rebirth aspect, the cradle to cradle redesign process that is essential in all industries at this time, when we can no longer afford to trash the earth) nor for the ecosystem approach, which requires time to allow natural cycles to run their course and cannot be limited by short and short sighted data collection periods. The work towards a binding treaty must include significant understanding of the opposition, of the driving forces that got us to the current extreme danger that we are now in.

And my third concern is that the work to digitize values based knowledge and put it into larger data sets is complicated and needs careful review and transparency and control, as the very process will involve choices that may negate the inputs.

I can offer you the following parallel event at the NGO CSW66 which engaged these issues, and I would be happy to put you in touch with the speakers should further refinement of these points be useful.

<https://templeofunderstanding.org/coastal-ecology-native-wisdom/>

<https://www.lowlandercenter.org>

Thank you for the opportunity to offer constructive input.