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Preparatory Meeting for The 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development - Greenpeace International

Written Intervention

The oceans are the origin of life, the support system for life, and the common heritage of all humankind.

However, decades of industrial fishing, pollution, CO2 emissions and climate change and more have plunged the oceans into crisis. It is in this context, governments continue to debate whether to allow the ocean to be opened up to deep sea mining, a destructive new practice which would undermine international conservation efforts and intensify the climate and ocean crises.

More than ever, urgent action is needed.

Accelerating the ratification of the High Seas Treaty is imperative for the attainment of the 30x30 target - to protect 30% of the global ocean by 2030. Therefore, UNOC 2025 should aim for at least 60 ratifications to swiftly bring the treaty into effect. Encouragingly, at the recent organizational meeting of the BBNJ Preparatory Commission, many states signaled their support for this deadline.

We propose to use the occasion to pave the way for the establishment of **the first tier of internationally designated, fully or highly protected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the High Seas**. Dedicated sessions at UNOC 2025 could investigate and promote scientific research and indigenous and local knowledge for priority MPA sites. UNOC 2025 can act as a platform for launching government coalitions to champion and co-sponsor MPA site proposals, while promoting capacity-building activities, and identifying material and other resources for treaty implementation.

Plastic pollution is irreversible and drives biodiversity loss in our oceans. UNOC 2025 will likely take place following the Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries to adopt a Plastic Pollution Treaty and should serve as a moment to celebrate and promote an ambitious Treaty. However, negotiators should not be hurried into a weak agreement simply to meet an arbitrary timeline. Ambition is more important than expediency. In particular, **the Plastics Treaty must include binding provisions to drastically reduce production of primary plastic polymers**. Without this, we will not be able to close the gap between waste that is minimised, produced and managed, which makes ending plastic pollution in oceans impossible.

Ensuring Conservation of the Global Seabed by **establishing a Moratorium on Deep Sea Mining**.

UNOC 2025 can also serve as the catalyst for the mobilisation of support for a moratorium on Deep Sea Mining. With the International Seabed Authority (ISA) assembly taking place just three weeks later, UNOC can set the stage for decisive action.

We urge governments to move beyond public declarations of support for ocean protection and take decisive action for our ocean at UNOC3. This means advancing the ratification and implementation

of the High Seas Treaty, agreeing an ambitious Global Plastics Treaty which cuts plastic production, and championing a moratorium on Deep Sea Mining established at ISA, as their top priorities.