

Intervention on behalf of the High Seas Alliance to the IGC

7 September 2018 afternoon 4. 1. Objective

Thank you Madam Facilitator for giving us the floor and good afternoon delegates. This intervention is given by Greenpeace on behalf of the 40 members of the High Seas Alliance.

As noted by Switzerland and the Seychelles, ABMTs, including MPAs and marine reserves, are a **central and critical** part of the future legally binding instrument.

Highly protected marine reserves are the most effective type of MPAs to reverse marine biodiversity loss, restore degraded marine ecosystems, safeguard food security and increase ocean resilience against the cumulative impacts of human activities and climate change. Marine reserves are also considered the most cost-effective option in terms of management & monitoring.

As Mauritius and the EU pointed out, the new Instrument should allow the international community to meet its long-standing commitments under the SDGs and the CBD target to protect 10% of marine and coastal waters by 2020. Protecting large areas beyond national jurisdiction is essential to meeting these targets, as well as the IUCN goal of setting aside at least 30% of the ocean as highly protected MPAs by 2030, which is consistent with recent scientific recommendations.

With respect to 4.1: We believe that the objective of the instrument with respect to ABMTs, including MPAs, should be the **protection, maintenance, and restoration** of ocean health and resilience through a global network of MPAs including, in particular, highly protected marine reserves.

The global network of MPAs should ensure **comprehensive** protection of key ecosystem processes, habitats and species, including but not limited to those which are:

- **vulnerable**, including to the impacts from climate change and ocean acidification
- important for the **survival, function, or recovery of rare or endangered marine species;**
- **natural carbon stores;** or

- important scientific reference areas.

This objective should apply to the full range of ABMTs, including sectoral ABMTs and MPAs. Thank you Madam Facilitator.
