

Thank you Madam Facilitator

We are very pleased to see you again in such an important role

Greenpeace on behalf of the High Seas Alliance are encouraged to see so many delegations take the floor in support of MPA networks as one effective tool to achieve the objectives under the new Instrument.

Rising levels of CO₂ are causing the oceans to become hotter, more acidic, and harder to breathe in. Science shows that MPAs, including fully protected marine reserves, are effective tools to reverse current trends of biodiversity loss, rebuild depleted species, fish stocks and ecosystems. MPAs were a good idea before we realized climate change's impact on the oceans. Now they are an essential requirement for protecting marine biodiversity.

The international community has undertaken long-standing commitments to protecting ocean areas, most recently with the adoption of the 2030 sustainable development agenda and more specifically the SDG 14.5, but also previously through the Aichi biodiversity targets. Through the international instrument we can and must operationalize these and provide a mechanism to establish and manage MPAs in ABNJ.

These, Madam facilitator, underpin the objectives of this agreement for MPAs. We look forward to further discussion.

END.