

Thank you Mr President

We are grateful for the widespread support by delegations for the participation of observers. We value the opportunity to participate here and in other bodies of the ISA and do observe that many millions of supporters of NGOs are represented here today.

Mr President, with respect to the discussions on guidance to be produced by the Secretary-General, we and I am sure others would welcome the opportunity to participate in the development of the guidelines.

At the outset, we suggest that helpful guidance may be taken from the Almaty Guidelines to the Aarhus Convention, entitled Almaty Guidelines On Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums adopted at the second meeting of the Parties held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 25-27 May 2005

Those Guidelines Recalls principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which states, inter alia, that environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level, and they state as general considerations that that access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters are fundamental elements of good governance at all levels and essential for sustainability and that in any structuring of international access, care should be taken to make or keep the processes open, in principle, to the public at large.

Thank you Mr President

Duncan Currie  
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition