

## **The Ocean Foundation Intervention**

**March 25, 2024**

**ISA 29-I**

### **Item 20: Report of the Secretary-General on incidents in the NORI-D contract area in the Clarion Clipperton Zone**

Good afternoon, as this is the first time The Ocean Foundation has taken the floor this session, I would like to thank our host country Jamaica, and the Secretariat, for their warm hospitality and kind assistance, as always and to congratulate you, Mr. President. I love that this conversation is being had in this room, because it reflects reality outside of the negotiating space - massive public opposition to seabed mining is mounting. Protests at sea are the boldest, bravest manifestation of this opposition. They are disruptive (as they are intended to be), and expensive for companies. They are also just one of many disruptive and expensive forms of opposition that anyone pursuing, sponsoring, or financing seabed mining might reasonably expect moving forward.

Real and significant public opposition could prevent projects being permitted, mire DSM projects in complex litigation, and/or lead to legal actions claiming financial damages. Such legal actions are expensive, and time consuming, no matter the outcome. We believe these risks and liabilities, which would have tangible - perhaps existential - effects on the viability of seabed mining projects, cannot be regulated away, nor can they be prevented. These public concerns should instead be seriously discussed, and form one of the many bases for a moratorium on deep seabed mining.