

## **Closing Statement Greenpeace**

### **BBNJ 2013**

Thank you co-chair,

At the opening of the meeting, Greenpeace welcomed the statements of the overwhelming majority of States in support of initiating negotiations of an agreement on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction by the end of the 69th General Assembly. It was encouraging to hear so many nations, including Brazil, the European Union, Mexico, South Africa, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and many others, repeating their commitment to the path and the deadline set by heads of State and Government at the Rio+ Summit last year.

Looking at the recommendations of this meeting, it is clear that there is willingness to continue discussions. However, we are disappointed that these discussions will continue informally, rather than as part of a formal negotiating process and stress that the timing of the meetings must reflect the urgency and importance of ending the oceans crisis. In this respect I would like to support the EU's intervention on including in the report of the co-chairs the need to make all efforts to conclude these meetings before the start of the 69<sup>th</sup> GA.

Around the world people are expecting action for the oceans. During this week, more than 23,5 million citizens could see messages sent from 750 locations around the world, calling on governments to protect the oceans [and this number does not include the reactions to the outcome of this meeting].

What the world urgently needs is political leadership towards a historic decision on global oceans governance following the Rio mandate; not more technical and informal discussions behind closed doors. We strongly urge all the States that have committed to address the global ocean crisis as a matter of urgency, to act and inspire action at the 69<sup>th</sup> UNGA next year, for the common benefit of millions of people worldwide.