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29 March 2016 afternoon
Agenda Item 7. Principles

Intervention Greenpeace, Pew NRDC for High Seas Alliance

Thank you Chair and good afternoon delegates

I am speaking for Greenpeace, the Pew Charitable Trust, NRDC and the High Seas Alliance.

We believe that principles are essential to guide States Parties in implementing any new international instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ.

Greenpeace has also submitted a white paper on principles that can be found on the DOALOS website. That paper suggested as principles relevant to the international instrument and particularly on the issues in the Package. That paper makes some suggestions on operationalizing the principles, similar to the suggestion made by Australia this afternoon. We also have a colour one-page handout on principles in the front of the room.

Those suggested principles are:

- Protection and restoration of the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, and maintenance of their biodiversity, in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- The sustainable and equitable use of marine life for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Ongoing co-operation between and among States to achieve the purposes of the Agreement.
- Use of the best available scientific information.
- Stewardship of the global marine environment for present and future generations.
- The precautionary principle.
- Ecosystem based management.
- Good environmental governance, including access to information, public participation and access to review procedures.
- The polluter pays principle
- Respect for the law of the sea.

We also note the helpful submission by Costa Rica on principles and helpful interventions by the European Union, South Africa for the African Group, Barbados for CARICOM, Thailand for G77, and national delegations.

The HSA is holding a side event tomorrow (Wednesday) at lunchtime in Room 9 to discuss the principles. All delegates are warmly welcomed.

Thank you Mr Chair.