



## **INTERVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CABLE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (ICPC) AT THE MARCH 17, 2020 CO FACILITATORS ONLINE BRIEFING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE 2020 UN OCEAN CONFERENCE DECLARATION**

Thank you very much for selecting the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) to make an intervention today. This is Alice Colarossi, calling in from New York.

The ICPC welcomes and fully supports the language of the zero draft of the declaration. We would like to emphasize one often forgotten key role of the ocean, which the ICPC would like to see highlighted in paragraph 3 of the zero draft: that the ocean also serves to “facilitate international communication,” as noted in the Preamble to the United Nations Law of the Sea, which states that the ocean is a “medium for most of the world’s submarine cables, as well as the cable ships that lay and maintain them.” The body of scientific publications, submarine cables are a key element of global subsea infrastructure that carries, through optical fibers, transoceanic phone, internet and data traffic.

Submarine cables are a sustainable use of the ocean, consistent with SDG 9 and its target 9.C could not be achieved. Target 9.C: “Significantly increase access to information and communications technologies and provide universal and affordable access to the Internet by 2020.” The case of submarine cable illustrates the importance of SDG 9 and SDG 14, and could be addressed as a concrete

example in the context of the 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference.

We are grateful for the opportunity to speak today, and we look forward to