

Strategic Plan
Twenty-Fourth Session
Assembly Meeting | 25 July 2018

Specific Comments received by the Secretariat

Cameroon:

In section 1, paragraph 4:

- c) Bis. Veiller à l'harmonisation des méthodes d'approche et de gestion des données de l'environnement marin et de ses ressources
- d) Veiller à une meilleure connaissance et à la protection efficace du milieu marin;

Belgium:

The BE delegation thanks the SG for the improvements made to this document since its presentation in March 2018 and supports the Strategic Plan with some minor but important suggested improvements. We would have welcomed here & there an even stronger emphasis on transparency, public consultation, conservation and precautionary principle regarding the viability of the ecosystem of the marine environment, as illustrated in the following small suggested corrections:

p.3 - I. Introduction point 4 on guiding principles BE strongly recommends to add:

- (d) bis Apply transparent processes with public notification and consultation.
- (f) bis Apply the precautionary approach

p.4 - II. Mission statement point 7 BE strongly recommends to add (indicated in bold):

- line 5 "..., including through the effective protection of the marine environment **in accordance with sound principles of conservation and the avoidance of unnecessary waste**, and contributing to ...
- line 13 at the end of the section: In addition, sufficient protected areas are also established where no exploration or exploitation is permitted.

p.5 - The need for exploitation regulations point 11 BE strongly recommends to change:

- line 10, at the end : replacing “to make the transition” by “to ensure a sound regulation for”.

p.9 - Strategic Direction 2.1 line 3, BE recommends to add (indicated in bold) “... on the basis of best available information, **public consultation** and in line with ...”

p.10 - Strategic Direction 3.2 line 3, BE strongly recommends to add at the end of the sentence: ..., to ensure sufficient protection of the deep seabed’s habitats and biodiversity.

p.10 - Strategic Direction 3.4 BE strongly recommends to change “to assess the potential for activities in the Area to interfere with the ecological balance of the marine environment.” to “to assess the potential **risks of** activities in the Area to interfere with the ecological balance of the marine environment.”

Germany:

Para. 4: We suggest to mention "transparency" explicitly. This would be an important clarification - and it would also be in line with para. 25 which refers to transparency as one of the guiding principle of the Authority.

Strategic direction 3.3: We suggest to include an additional reference to making also available relevant and non-confidential contractors' data.

Strategic Direction 8.2: We suggest to exchange "facilitate" by "ensure".

The delegation from Germany would like to support the remarks by NZL and CAN in relation to the Art. 154 review process and, therefore, we would like to state that a mid-term review of the Strategic Plan is not necessary.

Singapore:

As raised in our intervention, Singapore would like to propose an addition to Strategic Direction 1.5, which currently refers to the safeguarding of interests of members of the Authority, and contractors. Our proposal is to add the words “as well as other users of the marine environment” at the end of Strategic Direction 1.5. In our view, this would more completely reflect the mandate of the Authority, which includes, for example, the promotion and encouragement of the conduct of marine scientific research. Such research may be undertaken by users other than members of the Authority, or contractors.

China:

The Chinese delegation suggests to have two elements added in section Part V “Expected outcomes” as part of the delivery resulting from the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The first one is to “develop a report as soon as possible on monitoring and review of trends and developments relating to deep seabed mining activities, including analysis of world metal market conditions and metal prices, trends and prospects, as required by Section 1(5)(d) of the Annex to the Implementing Agreement”.

The second one is to “conduct a study without delay of potential impact of mineral production from the Area on the economies of relevant developing land-based producers of those minerals, as required by Section 1(5)(e) of the Annex to the Implementing Agreement”.