

**Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI)
Statements to the 25th Session of the ISA Assembly**

<http://dosi-project.org>

23rd July 2019

Agenda Item 9: Report of the Secretary-General - ISBA/25/A/2

Madame President, thank you for giving us the floor. The Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative would like to thank the Secretary-General for this detailed Report.

DOSI welcomes paragraph 59 of the Report, which states that: “The promotion of marine scientific research with respect to activities in the Area, with particular emphasis on research related to the environmental impact of activities in the Area, is a key focus area for the Authority”, and we encourage the Authority to actively pursue this key focus area with increased conviction in the coming years.

In reference to paragraph 73, DOSI wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Authority for the award of \$12,000 to facilitate the participation of postgraduate students and early-career researchers at the International Deep-Sea Biology Symposium and the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative’s Workshop in September 2018 in Monterey, USA. The provision of funding opportunities, via scientific groups and networks such as DOSI, is key to increasing the accessibility of deep-ocean science events, and we hope to continue to work with the Authority on matters such as these.

Diversity is a valuable trait in deep-sea communities, as it increases ecosystem resilience and function. This is no different for the marine scientific community, where increased diversity leads to innovation, partnerships, and scientific advances that reach a larger segment of humankind. DOSI acknowledges the internship program, referred to in paragraphs 76 to 78, as one way to improve the ethnic and geographic diversity of the deep-ocean scientific community and accordingly, we encourage its continuation and further development. DOSI also hopes to see the development of effective actions for increasing gender diversity in marine scientific research as part of the voluntary commitments referred to in paragraph 80.

Specifically with respect to paragraph 81, DOSI wishes to also acknowledge the Secretary-General’s Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research, especially given the exciting and important contribution from The Principality of Monaco, which will truly transform this from a token gesture to one which can help propel early career researchers from developing countries forward. We look forward to welcoming the 2019 winner on Thursday.

In summary, DOSI is fully supportive of these voluntary commitments and is keen to assist where needed. Again, we commend the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for all efforts since the last Report, and look forward to continuing work with the Secretariat and the Authority in the coming year.

Thank you very much, Madame President.