

Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

ISA Council

DSCC Intervention 15 July 2019

Item 10 Report of Implementation of 2018 Decision of Council on Reports of LTC Chair

DSCC intervention 15 July morning Council

Thank you Madam President

Firstly, with respect to the transparency of contracts. We join Australia the UK and Costa Rica in support of their transparency.

We discussed this topic in the March meeting, and we suggest that release of contracts themselves- not just the templates - would be a clear and straightforward response to last year's request by Council. The process appears to be delayed due to difficulties with the templates. We recall that the template suggestion arose from the Warsaw meeting of contractors, which was not open to observers, and we suggest that release of contracts be revisited in light of the further delays.

Madam President, we welcome the observations of Jamaica on transparency of workshops, including the development of agendas, invitations and funding and particularly welcome the suggestion of livestreaming workshops. We also welcome Italy's support for transparency and access to science, and Chile's and Costa Rica's support of transparency. We would add that this should include transparent development of the reports of the workshops.

We also welcome Germany's support for open working groups of the Commission. We have long called both for open sessions of the Commission and for a scientific or environment committee. Germany's suggestions could be a step towards that, and, like Pew, we welcome Belgium's suggestion for independent experts.

Finally, Madam President, we welcome the earlier statement by Algeria for the African Group and its important paper on liability. I would say it is particularly timely, as the Commonwealth Secretariat has a side event on liability this evening. Madam President, liability has many facets. We welcome the excellent papers by the Legal Working Group, and look forward to discussing them further, as they are of great relevance to the draft regulations.