



Assembly

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Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

Note by the Secretariat

1. On 7 May 2014, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority. The text of the letter provided by the applicant is contained in the annex to the present note.
2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, may participate as observers in the Assembly.
3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule further provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly, and upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule within the scope of their activities that are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the Secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.



Annex**Letter dated 7 May 2014 from Sian Owen, Global Coordinator,
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, addressed to the
Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority**

In accordance with rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC) (formally Stichting Deep Sea Conservation Coalition) is seeking to participate in meetings of the International Seabed Authority as an observer.

DSCC is a *stichting* (foundation) incorporated in the Netherlands. DSCC has as its objective to protect and preserve the marine environment of the seabed, subsoil and deep sea, including the living marine resources, marine biodiversity and marine environment of and related to the seabed and deep sea and the associated species and ecosystems. More than 70 non-governmental organizations worldwide are working together under the umbrella of DSCC to protect vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems, such as cold-water coral reefs.

DSCC has been active for more than 10 years, working with States and intergovernmental bodies to promote the conservation and protection of benthic ecosystems and the sustainable use of deep-sea living marine resources in relation to the management of fisheries in the deep sea. DSCC has promoted the adoption of a series of General Assembly resolutions to establish a global standard for the management of deep-sea fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction. DSCC has regularly participated in meetings of the oceans-related working groups of the Assembly, including the Informal Consultative Process and the UN-Oceans Task Force on Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction; various meetings of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, including the negotiation of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas; and the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

DSCC has also participated in numerous meetings of regional fisheries management organizations in the North Atlantic, including the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, and the Southern Ocean, including the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, as well as multilateral negotiations to establish new regional fisheries management organizations in the North and South Pacific and Indian Oceans to manage bottom fisheries in the deep sea. DSCC has produced reports on the implementation of the Assembly resolutions on deep-sea fisheries over the past several years, and works with a network of deep-sea scientists on the issue of deep-sea conservation.

DSCC looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Authority and States parties. DSCC respectfully requests that its application to be granted observer status in the International Seabed Authority be considered at the next session of the Authority, in 2014.

DSCC would like to nominate Matthew Gianni, Political and Policy Adviser, as the representative of DSCC for the meeting of the International Seabed Authority in 2014.

(Signed) Sian **Owen**
Global Coordinator
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
