

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 27TH SESSION:
COUNCIL - PART I**

Informal Working Group - Environment

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete and send to council2022@isa.org.jm.

1. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

Belgium

2. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.

Regulation 48bis

3. Kindly provide the proposed amendments to the regulation or standard or guideline in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.

Belgium has no concrete text proposal at this stage. We are of the opinion that test mining is a valuable and potentially mandatory tool to collect data and to decide on the exploitation conditions, if allowed, prior to the full-scale operationalization of the Exploitation contract.

We are exploring the possibility to integrate test mining in an Exploitation contract in (scaleup) phases, with an intermediary decision moment on the scaleup. This with the aim to have an EIA prior to the test mining, without being compelled to conduct a new EIA after the test mining and prior to the full-scale commercial operations.

4. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150 word limit]