

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

Informal Working Group -Environment

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete.

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

China

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

Regulation 10

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.

1. The Secretary-General shall review an application for approval of a Plan of Work and determine whether an application is complete for further processing. Should there be more than one application for the same area and same Resource category, the Secretary-General shall determine whether the applicant has preference and priority in accordance with article 10 of annex III to the Convention, and in case of any dispute, it shall be submitted to the Commission to make recommendations, upon which the Council shall make the decision.

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

Article 10 of Annex III to the Convention not only stipulates the preferences and priorities enjoyed by an exploration Contractor, but also provides that such preferences and priorities may be withdrawn if the performance of the operator has not been satisfactory. It is suggested that the Secretary-General only carry out preliminary review on the form of the application for approval of a Plan of Work, and it should be left for the Commission or the Council to determine whether the performance of the applicant has been satisfactory and whether a situation of withdrawal of preferences and priorities occurs.