

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 27<sup>TH</sup> 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.*

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

Canada

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

Regulation 44 General obligations

**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 Authority, sponsoring States, the Enterprise and Contractors shall, within their respective competence, adopt, plan, implement and modify measures necessary for ensuring effective protection for the Marine Environment from harmful effects which may arise from Exploitation in the Area or from shipboard processing immediately above a mine site of minerals derived from that mine site, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement, the rules, regulations and procedures adopted by the Authority, as well as the Standards referred to in regulation 45. To this end:

a) In establishing and keeping under periodic review environmental rules, regulations and procedures, in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement, the Authority shall:

(i) Apply the precautionary approach, as reflected in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the ecosystem approach to the assessment and management of risk to the Marine Environment from Exploitation in the Area;

(ii) Apply the Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices;

(iii) Integrate Best Available Scientific Evidence in decision- making, including all risk assessments and management undertaken in connection with environmental assessments, and the management and response measures taken under or in accordance with Best Environmental Practices; ~~and~~

(iv) Take into account limitations, gaps or deficiencies in knowledge regarding the deep-sea marine environment and anticipated impacts of exploitation activities in the Area;

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

It is standard practice to include provisions on uncertainties and knowledge gaps. Without such, the information currently in the draft regulations could be mistaken as comprehensive. As many scientists agree, there is a critical knowledge deficit on the subject

of the deep-sea marine environment. The inclusion of uncertainties and knowledge gaps would highlight the areas of research that are still needed to accurately assess the marine environmental impacts of deep-sea mining.