



**ITEM 15: REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (ISBA/27/C/36-ISBA/27/A/8) --
Item 16: Decision of the Council on the budget of the International Seabed
Authority (ISBA/27/C/L.3
ISBA/27/C/22-ISBA/27/A/3, ISBA/27/C/22/Add.1-ISBA/27/A/3/Add.1,
ISBA/27/C/22/Add.1/Rev.1-ISBA/27/A/3/Add.1/Rev.1)
Delivered on 28.07.2022**

Thank you Mr President,

The Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that it is heartened to hear of the new plans to promote and facilitate marine-scientific research, as well as capacity development through establishment of a Partnership Fund. DOSI aligns itself largely with the comments of Brazil highlighting the importance of marine scientific research in the ISA's priorities, and the need to enhance deep-sea literacy globally.

As with Brazil and Costa Rica, we also wish to seek clarification with regards to the proposal to merge the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research into the new International Seabed Authority Partnership Fund, with different governance and also wider objectives. As expressed last week, further information on how this fund will be operationalised for the benefit of humankind as a whole would be welcomed. Finally, DOSI is an expert network, containing many of the legal scholars and scientific experts that Brazil spoke of. We would gladly welcome the opportunity to contribute.

Thank you very much