



Intervention during the Informal Working Group on the Protection and preservation of the Marine Environment – Facilitator’s text (IV).

Thank you Madam Facilitator

As a network of experts from across disciplines and sectors, DOSI fully, unequivocally, and enthusiastically supports the inclusion of Traditional Knowledge in these negotiations.

TK can be defined as the knowledge, innovations and practices developed from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment. For the deep sea, TK is manifested in the preservation and perpetuation of connections between people, species, processes, ecosystems and seascapes. This includes an explicit approach for effective environmental management.

TK embodies cultural and spiritual values associated with the natural environment and an important and respectful interaction with Nature.

At the regional level, traditional knowledge can be applied alongside western scientific or technical knowledge in the development of guiding principles for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Regional Environmental Management Plans. For example, TK can contribute to the designation of protected areas (such as APEIs) that are critical to (i) maintain connectivity or ensure survival of key species, including those with major cultural significance for IPLCs, (ii) maintain indigenous navigation rights, (iii) recognize sacred or otherwise culturally significant areas.

DOSI has produced a policy brief on these matters, and will be more than happy to share and or discuss it with anyone interested.

Thank you