



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

Thank you Madam Facilitator.

DOSI would like to make an intervention on the Environmental Compensation Fund to support the suggestion made by Mexico underlining that the Fund should apply to any necessary measures to prevent, limit, remediate and compensate any damage *to the environment*. Impacts from deep sea mining will not be limited to the seafloor, but will also impact the water column, and affect the ecosystem services provided by this part in the ocean, including, but not limited to, fisheries support, climate change regulation and other ecosystem services. A broader application of the Fund is therefore warranted.

We would like to support Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and make a clarification on the possibility or feasibility of a restoration of the ecosystems in the deep sea. [Here, we agreed with PEW Charitable Trusts on this point.] There is no evidence that biodiversity, or ecosystems functioning can be recovered after the impacts on the habitats that are expected from deep sea mining have occurred. We know that biological and ecological processes in the deep sea are slower than in other realms, and impact experiments have shown little recovery after decades. The very few restoration experiments that are being carried out will only yield the first results after years, maybe decades from now. Hence, not only is the feasibility of restoration actions in the deep sea in doubt, but also it is unlikely that such processes will take place in our lifetimes. It can be considered irreversible

Thank you