

**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:**

**India**

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

Regulation 44bis: Regional Environmental Management Plans.

Page 5. ISBA/27/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.1

**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.**

**Placeholder**

- A proposal was made for a new provision 44bis addressing Regional Environmental Management Plans (see ISBA/26/C/CRP.1).
- In light of the process subsequently decided upon by the Council concerning a standardized approach for the development, approval and review of Regional Environmental Management Plans in the Area (ISBA/26/C/10), it is suggested that delegations focus their discussion on paragraph 3 of the proposal, which is most directly related to these draft regulations. The paragraph reads:  
  
*“3. Regional Environmental Management Plan for the particular area concerned should be adopted by the council before seeking the application for a plan of work for that area . In the event that an application for a Plan of Work is submitted for an area where no such Regional Environmental Management Plan exists, the drafting of a Regional Environmental Management Plan applicable to the area in concern shall be prioritised and adopted within one year without any undue delay, taking into account Section 2, Article 15 b/c of the 1994 Implementing Agreement.”*
- Discussions could also consider the possible placement of such a provision in Part II, sections 3 and 4, or to Regulation 94, if kept in the draft regulations.

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

REMPS have not been finalized for the Indian Ocean Region. For the last two years efforts to conduct workshop for the finalization of REMPS received setback due to the pandemic. It may take a few more years for the REMPS to be adopted by the council. Above mentioned 44bis puts the contractors and potential applicants in this area in a disadvantageous position. It may also be noted the onus of finalizing the REMPS lies with the Authority. Hence the modification is proposed.