

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 27TH 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:

United States

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

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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.

3. The Environmental Impact Statement shall be in the form prescribed by the Authority in annex IV to these regulations and shall ~~be~~:

- (a) ~~Be Inclusive~~inclusive of a prior environmental risk assessment;
- (b) ~~Be Based~~based on the results of the environmental impact assessment;

(c) Include a description of the analysis of alternatives, including a no-action alternative.

~~(d)~~ Identify comments received through public consultation on the

environmental impact assessment and how they have been addressed;

~~(e)~~ Be In~~in~~ accordance with the objectives and measures of the relevant regional environmental management plan; and

~~(f)~~ Be Prepared~~prepared~~ in accordance with the applicable ~~Standards~~Guidelines, Good Industry Practice, Best Available Scientific Evidence, Best Environmental Practices and Best Available Techniques, and taking into account the relevant Guidelines.

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

Firstly, we would like to suggest that a description of the results of the analysis of alternatives, including a no-action alternative, be required as part of the Environmental Impact Statement. This will allow decision makers to consider and analyze the impacts of a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed action, as well as a no-action alternative. Alternatives analysis is an essential part of an EIA. Even where there are no technically and economically feasible alternatives, EIA still considers the alternative of “no action” as a means of assessing the effects of the proposed action. Secondly, since the Guidelines are not legally binding, we have suggested an alternative formulation for considering them in the preparation of the EIS, as well as added a reference to applicable Standards.