

**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 Kingdom

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

Regulation 44bis

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.

An application for a Plan of Work shall not be considered by the Commission until and unless a Regional Environmental Management Plan has been adopted by the Council for the particular area concerned. 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 without any undue delay, taking into account Section 2, Article 15 b/c of the 1994 Implementing Agreement.

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

We support the facilitator’s proposal in ISBA/27/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.1 to focus on para 3 of 44(bis) proposed in ISBA/27/C/CRP.1, which emphasises that REMPs must be in place prior to approving an application for a PoW for exploitation.

Whilst we support the need for an environmentally sound standardised approach for REMP development and implementation, we do not believe that the exploitation regulations are the appropriate place to establish that standardized approach. It is not the appropriate place because REMPs are relevant to other aspects of the Authority’s work, beyond its work relating to exploitation. We acknowledge the work of the LTC on the standardised approach and as set out in ISBA/27/C/16 paragraphs 17 and 18.

With respect to the provision in reg 44bis(3), we are flexible as to the placement of that provision.