

DOSI Intervention regarding Item 10: Draft Regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area: Fourth meeting of the Informal Working Group on the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment

Annex IV Section 9 - Assessment of impacts on the socioeconomic and sociocultural environment and proposed Mitigation

#28 Delivered 22 March 2023 by Sonigitu Ekpe

Thank you, Madame Facilitator. The Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative supports the inclusion of a new point in 9.2.1, which will facilitate the reporting of potential impacts on ecosystem services such as impacts on fisheries or carbon sequestration. With regards to paragraph 9.2.1.1, DOSI recommends that the dewatering or discharge plume is included in this description. The effects of increased suspended sediment concentrations and metal toxicity related to the mining plumes are further ranging than noise and light pollution and may represent impacts of greater magnitude. In addition, we suggest the addition of fisheries support to paragraph 9.2.1.5ter as another important ecosystem service provided by the midwater deep ocean biological communities. DOSI supports the inclusion of section 9.4 on gender impact analysis. Thank you, Madame Facilitator.