

**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**

**DR 45 Development of environmental Standards and Guidelines  
Delivered 20 March 2023**

Thank you, Madame Facilitator. The Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative supports many of the revisions to this regulation, and we stand by ready to assist drafting streamlined revisions of the list of items in 1(a) invited by Germany. Regarding paragraph 1(c), we highlight for further revision the definition in the Regulations of 'mitigate' or 'mitigation', which currently includes all aspects of the mitigation hierarchy. DOSI is of the opinion that references to remediation are both unnecessarily legally, and more importantly, risk being misleading and creating over-confidence in the feasibility of causing damage and then restoring it, which currently is not possible in the deep ocean. Further, compensation or offsetting as part of Mitigation measures are not reasonable options, as current scientific evidence indicates that such strategies are impossible in the deep sea. As such, we request that a new Standard on mitigation measures be developed as a matter of urgency, so that stakeholders can ensure that mitigation measures are described appropriately in the ISA's regulatory regime.

With regards to Paragraph 2 stating that the Authority shall not approve any Exploitation activities unless the environmental Standards have been adopted, DOSI would like to emphasize again that there are still significant scientific knowledge gaps that will preclude the creation of such Standards. We welcome, for example, the proposed plan for an intersessional working group of the Legal and Technical Commission to develop thresholds, but would like to recognise the immense, and perhaps impossible, challenge of this work, given the proposed short time frame and limited data available.

Thank you, Madame Facilitator.