

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 46 bis Paragraph 4 Environmental Impact Assessment
Delivered 20 March 2023**

Thank you, Madame Facilitator. DOSI recommends to include a reference in paragraph 4a to the Impact Reference and Preservation Reference Zones. These zones need to have been established by the time an EIA is conducted because the Contractor will need to collect detailed baseline data in preservation and impact reference sites. The EIA is the appropriate step to assess whether the reference zones are sufficiently similar to serve as reference zones and can fulfill their function in monitoring for potential impacts from deep-sea mining. The similarity must relate to the biogeochemical environment at the seafloor and across the water column. DOSI also supports the inclusion of Paragraph 4g that an EIA should be carried out by a suitable combination of qualified, independent practitioners. Thank you, Madame Facilitator.