

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 46ter Paragraph 3 Environmental Monitoring

Delivered 21 March 2023

Thank you Madame Facilitator. The Environmental and Monitoring Plan is essential in the ecosystem-based approach promoted by the ISA as well as monitoring for potential mining impacts to the marine environment. Regarding Paragraph 3, we believe it is important to make it clear that the SUPPLEMENTARY monitoring programme for the first 7 years is in addition to the normal monitoring programme a Contractor has to conduct for the entire duration of the exploitation and post-closure phase. The aim here should be to avoid misunderstanding and to ensure that monitoring occurs throughout the mining phase, particularly because of the slow pace of biological processes in the deep sea.

The lack of experts or high costs should not prevent monitoring or appropriate assessment.
Thank you, Madame Facilitator.