

Madam facilitator,

Good afternoon. As our delegation is taking the floor for the first time in this session, please permit us to congratulate the president and vice presidents of the council on their election. We thank the president of the last sessionfor the successful conduct of the previous session. We thank you for providing an able leadership and the informal working group on Protection and preservation of the marine environment for their hard work and for the progress achieved.

As a responsible state and the contractor, this is a topic close to our heart. We are privileged to host the forthcoming REMPS workshop for the Indian Ocean Region at Chennai, India. ~~This was the major topic our discussions with the ISA delegation led by the Secretary general during their visit to India.~~

With reference to Regulation 44, , our delegation has a few suggestions:

In the para 1.a.(i) , we suggest that it would be appropriate to add “ as reflected in the REMPS for the respective areas”.

In 1. (a). iv- there is no need to delete ‘in the area’ since similar mention was made in the following sections.

Our delegation supports the inclusion of paragraph 1 (a).v.

The para 1. (vi).c. in page 4 , we feel that the last sentence ‘in doing so’ needs to be rephrased for conveying a clear message. The phrase ‘to the possible extent’ may be added after ‘shall mitigate harm’ as done in regulation 45. After all it may not always possible to completely mitigate the harm.

We wonder about the rationale of the inclusion of Para (4) in 2 bis in the page 5.

In para 1 of 44 bis on page 6, the word ‘only’ can be shifted after ‘plan of work’. It can read as ‘The commission shall consider an application ‘only’ if REMP has been adopted by the council for the particular area concerned.

We once again express our concern that REMPS is the responsibility of the ISA and a contractor shall not be deprived be cause REMPS are in place.

We suggest that it may be rephrased as ‘ All Regional Environmental Management Plans should be adopted before acceptance of the application for a plan of work.

Thank you Madam facilitator for the floor.