

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 28TH SESSION:
COUNCIL - PART I**

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete and send to council@isa.org.jm.

- 1. Name of Working Group:** Protection and preservation of the marine environment

- 2. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:** Federated States of Micronesia

- 3. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.** Annex IV

- 4. Kindly provide the proposed amendments to the regulation or standard or guideline in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.**

Template for Environmental Impact Statement

The required format and contents for an Environmental Impact Statement is outlined below. It is intended to provide the International Seabed Authority, its member States and other stakeholders with unambiguous documentation of the potential Environmental Effects based on the Best Available Scientific Evidence, Best Environmental Practices, ~~and~~ Best Available Techniques and Good Industry Practice on which the Authority can base its decision, and any subsequent approval that may be granted. Further detail for each section is provided following the overview.

This document is a template, and does not provide details of methodology or thresholds that may be resource- and site-specific. These methodologies and thresholds may also change over time in accordance to, for example, development of new technologies, ~~or~~ new scientific data, or new knowledge, and will be developed as Standards and Guidelines to support the regulations.

...

Section 2.1 Applicable national and international legislation, policies and procedures

Outline the national and international legislation, procedures and policies, for example those adopted in accordance with article 209 of the Convention to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment, including the coastline, from activities in the Area, as well as applicable rules, regulations, procedures, Standards and Guidelines and the Regional Environmental Management Plan of the Authority, that is applicable to the proposed mining operation in the Area, including any guidance provided for implementation and how the proposed operation will comply with them.

Section 2.2 Other applicable national legislation, policies and regulations

Outline any other legislation, policies, regulations or Sustainable Development Bills that do not necessarily apply specifically to seabed mining or the environment, but may be relevant to the

proposal (e.g., shipping regulations, maritime declarations, flag State laws research, ~~climate change policies~~). This section should also refer to national regulations and laws that relate to the effects of Exploitation activities on coastal States, or other places where components of Exploitation (e.g., processing) could occur.

Section 3.7bis Environmental management measures to mitigate impacts

Provide a summary description of reasonable measures taken to mitigate adverse impacts to the physical, chemical, geological, biological, ~~and~~ socioeconomic and sociocultural environment.

Section 3bis.2 Methodology for Collecting Baseline Data

For each of the baseline descriptions of the Marine Environment in sections 4 and 5 and socioeconomic and sociocultural environment in section 6, describe the methodology for collecting baseline data, including: . . .

Section 3bis.4 Methodology for Assessments of potential environmental impacts and Environmental Effects to the Marine Environment

For each assessment of potential environmental impacts and Environmental Effects in sections 7 and 8 and socioeconomic and sociocultural environment in section 9, describe the methodology used to assess impacts and Environmental Effects from proposed operations and alternatives considered in section 3.7.

Section 4.11 Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change

Provide a description of the level of gas and fluid emissions from both natural and anthropogenic activities in the Area, as well as those affecting sea floor and water-column chemistry. The climate mitigation functions and services of the ocean should also be described (including CO2 update and sequestration, or nutrient cycling).

Section 6. Description of the existing ~~human activities~~ socioeconomic and sociocultural environment

Section 6.2.5 Sociocultural uses

List the ~~human activities in~~ sociocultural uses of the project area (e.g., traditional navigation routes, migratory paths of culturally significant marine species, sacred sites and waters associated with ritual or ceremonial activities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as well as known or suspected Underwater Cultural Heritage).

Section 12 Product stewardship

Provide a brief description of the intended use of the mineral-bearing ore once it leaves the Area. The description should also address how the Contractor will minimize health, safety, environmental, ~~and~~ socioeconomic and sociocultural effects of the intended product or products to meet standards for environmental management, and should address the following potential impacts: . . .

5. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150-word limit]

Without prejudice to the output of the intersessional working group on the restructuring of Annex IV, the Federated States of Micronesia proposes the following tweaks to Annex IV (Environmental Impact Statement): 1) For the preface (“Template for an environmental impact statement”), insert a reference to Best

Environmental Practices and Good Industry Practice for the sake of being comprehensive, and a reference to new knowledge to capture the introduction of information other than new scientific information; 2) in Section 2.1, insert a reference to the coastline, in accordance with article 145(a) of UNCLOS; 3) in Section 2.2, delete the reference to climate change policies in order to avoid the impression that climate change policies do not apply to seabed mining or the environment; 4) in Section 3.7bis, insert a reference to “sociocultural,” to align with rest of text in the Annex; 5) in Section 3bis.2 and Section 3bis.4, insert references to “sociocultural” to align with rest of text in the Annex, including Sections 6 and 9; 6) in Section 4.11, insert text on ocean climate mitigation functions and services, in alignment with similar text in Section 7 about effects on such functions and services; 7) in the title for Section 6 as well as in the substance of Section 6.2.5, refer to “sociocultural” (as well as “socioeconomic”) rather than to just “human activities,” so as to better align with text in Section 9 (which does not refer to “human activities”) as well as to avoid the impression that sociocultural considerations are limited to specific/discrete human activities in the Area; and 8) in Section 12, insert a reference to “sociocultural”.