

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 28<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:council@isa.org.jm).*

**1. Name of Working Group:**

IWG Environment

**2. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:**

UK

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

DR46bis

**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.**

(b) An Environmental impact assessment ~~and evaluation process~~ to describe ~~the Marine Environment including Underwater Cultural Heritage~~ and predict the nature and extent of the Environmental Effects of the mining operation, ~~in accordance with the applicable Standard~~, including cumulative and synergistic impacts and residual ~~and synergistic~~ effects ~~also considering other existing and foreseen mining operations~~, using Best Available Scientific Evidence, ~~Best Archaeological Practices~~, ~~Best Environmental Practices~~, ~~Best Available Techniques~~, and ~~Good Industry Practice~~ and taking into account, where applicable:

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

We make the comments on 46bis, noting we are also engaging in the work of the EIA informal intersessional working group, who will submit their comments June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**1bis** - UK Comment: The Sponsoring state does not conduct an EIA, the Contractor does. The Sponsoring state provides administrative due diligence to ensure the EIA is conducted effectively, as so this paragraph should be redrafted to reflect this.

**2(b)** We agree that cultural heritage must be taken into consideration during an environmental impact assessment in accordance with UNCLOS Article 149, and this is in line with our domestic practices. However, there are many other factors, e.g. socio-economic factors which are also taken into consideration during an EIA that aren't linked to the definition of the Marine Environment in the way this proposal suggests for UCH, but instead listed as explicitly required in the EIA Annex. We therefore consider the same approach should be taken for cultural heritage. We further note that UNCLOS Part XI has related provisions which should be used instead of references to the UNESCO Convention, especially as not all Members of the Authority have ratified the UCH UNESCO Convention.