



DOSI intervention #3
IWG Protection and preservation of the marine environment
DR44 - General obligations

Thank you, Madam Facilitator.

Since this is the first time the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative takes the floor in this working group, may we congratulate you with the progress made

We welcome the work undertaken by the intersessional working group on DR44 streamlining and simplifying the text of the regulation and support that general obligations are held by all entities involved.

If part of the facilitator's text wording is kept, DOSI supports the suggestion of T&T, with reference to paragraph 2(g), that the word 'ecosystems' is changed to 'ecosystem services' as the examples listed after are ecosystem services. This distinction is important given that ecosystem services can and should be valued to understand the external costs of deep-sea mining and be weighed against the potential benefits. As it stated in the Report on the value of ecosystem services and natural capital of the Area discussed yesterday, this is at the moment challenged by the lack of data.

Further, DOSI would like to clarify that offsetting is not applicable to the deep sea, and will never be, independently of the state of knowledge, because many of the species and ecosystems found in a given area of the deep-sea are unique, and cannot be replaced. We therefore respectfully disagree with what has been previously suggested concerning the reinsertion of 'offsetting' in paragraph 1(c).

Finally, we support the inclusion of Traditional and Indigenous knowledge in this regulation. As discussed in the policy brief prepared by DOSI, traditional knowledge is important for management of deep-sea mining. Indigenous ways of knowledge embody cultural and spiritual values associated with the natural environment and a respectful interaction with Nature. This policy brief is available on DOSI's website for delegates who are interested in reading more.

Thank you, Madam Facilitator