



Intervention #6 - DR47 - Environmental Impact Assessment Process – Delivered by Patricia Esquete on 12/07/2023.

Thank you, Madame Facilitator

DOSI first welcomes the streamlining work being conducted on the provisions on EIAs, and stands ready to assist for further work on EIA provisions. For example, the current provisions relating to the EIA process in DR47 and EIAs in DR47bis, and their distinction, require further clarification.

On the content of draft regulation 47, Regarding Paragraph 3b, DOSI supports the suggestion made by Trinidad & Tobago to add cumulative impacts and synergistic effects to the list of elements that the Environmental Impact Assessment should include. Specifically, cumulative effects are additive effects, meaning that the sum of effects equal the individual effects combined; synergistic effects are a form of interactive effects, meaning that the sum does not equal the individual effects combined. For instance, the effects of climate change must be always taken into consideration.

Paragraph 3b(vi) would benefit from more clarity. Every deep-sea species has a different life cycle, most of them unknown, with different durations that range from days to thousands of years, and varying use of the habitat. Regardless of the duration of the impact, it will affect the survival of many species.

Regarding paragraph 3c, DOSI would like to support Switzerland New Zealand and our colleagues from DSCC, and reiterate 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: The loss of genetic resources, for example, cannot be offsetted.

Thank you, Madam Facilitator