



Intervention #10 - Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the decision of the Council in 2022 relating to the reports of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission – Delivered by Patricia Esquete on 17.07.2023

Thank you, Mr. President,

DOSI acknowledges the report of the Secretary General and would like to make 2 brief comments.

Firstly: we notice, in paragraph 5, that the report has not identified any instances of alleged non-compliance by contractors in relation to their operations at sea or in the conduct of their plans of work for exploration. DOSI questions why the report only refers to 'operations at sea or in the conduct of their plans of work' and questions whether this implies that other instances of alleged non-compliance, for example with data reporting, annual reports, periodic reports, payments, have not been included in the report.

Secondly, we note that the secretariat is continuing its scientific work and interpretation from DeepData, with the assistance of experts from developing countries. DOSI is grateful for any update on any improvements to DeepData Since its launch in 2019, DeepData still has limited functionality. We stress that the database is only useful if the data is accessible and usable for management and policy decision-making. As shown in a recent research article presented in the side event hosted by DOSI and PEW last Wednesday, in spite of recent improvements, such as the publication of DeepData records in the OBIS ISA node, DeepData still has deficiencies that compromise the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability of the data The accessibility of oceanographic and biological data collected by contractors in the Area is essential for independent analyses that will guide REMPs. We hope DeepData will be improved to resolve these matters, including a data quality control system, a better integration of this platform with global observing efforts and adoption of best practices, interoperability, and accessibility.

DOSI remains ready to assist to explore these issues further.

Thank you M. President.