



DOSI intervention #1

Eighth Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Council on the financial terms of a contract – Delivered by Patricia Esquete on 11/07/2023

DR38 - Annual Report

Thank you, Mr Chair,

Since this is the first time the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative has been given the floor, may we congratulate you on the progress made.

DOSI believes that transparency is key in monitoring mining activities, and as such we again request that the Annual Reports of each Contractor are made available to the Council rather than limiting it to the Secretary-General, as written in paragraph 1. Independent experts need to be able to review the actual results from environmental monitoring programmes, and how the results evaluate against the thresholds, although these still require to be developed. DOSI would also like to know in what timeframe these reports will be made available on the Seabed Mining Register, as such a timeframe is currently not set for the Secretariat.

Regarding paragraph 2g, DOSI again recommends alignment of the annual report content to reflect the requirements of the recent BBNJ Agreement for reports to include sample batch identifiers from the common Marine Scientific Research clearinghouse proposed in articles 12 and 14 of the Agreement.

Finally, DOSI is keen to hear how the Secretariat will aim for the effective management of the submitted information to fill in existing gaps in knowledge, including their sensitivity and resilience, the determination of environmental quality standards and appropriate exploitation equipment, as this requires highly technical expertise.

DOSI stands ready to assist in reviewing the current scientific environmental information so far provided by industries to aid in bridging scientific gaps in deep sea mining environmental impact assessment knowledge.

Thank you, Mr Chair