

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 30TH 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.

1. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

The Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, and The Pew Charitable Trusts

2. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.

DR45(2)(c)

3. 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.

Blue is the original (consolidated) text. Yellow represents our suggestions.

2. The Council shall, based on the recommendations of the Commission, adopt ~~E~~environmental Standards in accordance with regulations 94 and 9, inter alia on the following subject matters:

(c) ~~Resource and region specific~~ geological, physical, chemical and biological ~~indicators and associated quantitative threshold values~~ environmental thresholds, including but not limited to:

- i. Toxicity
- ii. Turbidity and settling of resuspended sediments
- iii. Underwater noise
- iv. Light pollution
- v. Habitat loss
- vi. Greenhouse gas emissions
- vii. biodiversity status and ecosystem structures, functions and services

~~[(i) biodiversity status and ecosystem structures, functions and services;~~

~~[(i) bis Physical properties of water (temperature, salinity, turbidity);~~

~~(i) ter Chemical properties of water;~~

~~(i) quad Chemical properties of sediments;]~~

~~[(ii) sediment plume characteristics (in particular, composition and characteristics of dissolved and suspended matter, plume dispersion, properties such as turbidity, depositional footprint and chemical composition, sedimentation rates); dispersion and dilution, resettlement, temperature and toxicity.~~

~~(iii) Physico-chemical Characteristics of seawater and sediment, including water chemistry and temperature~~

~~(iv) light emissions;~~

~~(v) noise and vibrations emissions and~~

~~[(vi) habitat disturbance.]~~

~~[(vi) greenhouse gas emissions.]~~

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

DR45.2. (c) we agree to add “[*Resource and region specific*] thresholds” as organisms or communities of organisms may have distinct thresholds in specific regions and in specific ecosystems associated to mineral resource.

DR45.2. (c) i-vii. represent a summary of resource and region specific indicators and quantitative environmental thresholds. The current list in the consolidated text would profit from streamlining as certain thresholds are named twice whilst others were deleted. i to v address topics associated to direct disturbance of mining impacts such as mining plumes, noise, light, and removal of mineral resources (=habitat). vi addresses impacts by surface production vessels, vii addresses ecosystem health and any potential cumulative impacts.

Toxicity, Turbidity and settling of resuspended sediments, Underwater noise, Light pollution (i-iv)

Purpose is streamlining with terminology used in ISBA/27/C/42, whilst retaining the content and avoiding repetition.

habitat loss (v):

In the consolidated text DR45 2.c.vi **habitat disturbance** was deleted. We note that an earlier proposal included the term **habitat removal**. We note that there is a difference in the terms and scope between the two. We suggest to add instead the term **habitat loss** to account for the original intention of inclusion of habitat removal whilst being more clear in terms and scope, that may have caused the deletion of the term habitat disturbance. **An habitat**, is a place where an organism or a community of organisms lives, including all living and nonliving factors or conditions of the surrounding environment. Examples: At polymetallic nodule fields, nodules provide habitat and sediments provide habitat for organisms. At hydrothermal vent fields, active and inactive deposits, as well as hard and soft-substrates without metals provide habitat for organisms. **Disturbance** is an event or force, of nonbiological or biological origin, that results in organism mortality and changes in their spatial patterning the ecosystem they inhabit. Therefore the thresholds on **habitat disturbance** may refer to any thresholds from mining impacts. They may include for example thresholds for disturbance by mining plumes, as well as by removal of nodules (habitat). Thresholds for plumes have been addressed already under I bis to III in the consolidated text. The original aim of adding **habitat removal** as threshold refers to the need to include a threshold for this form of mining disturbance in order to ensure the effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects.

As alternative term, we suggest to add the term habitat loss, as this is more precise and widely used in other fora. **Habitat loss**, in ecology, is the reduction or elimination of the space in which a species or community of organisms lives and reproduces.

greenhouse gas emissions (vi):

2.vi.[greenhouse gas emissions] had been put in brackets in the consolidated text but shall be included, to address the importance of mitigating global climate change impacts.

biodiversity status and ecosystem structures, functions and services (vii)

biodiversity status and ecosystem structures, functions and services had been put in brackets in the consolidated text but shall be included, to address status of ecosystem health and any potential cumulative impacts that may impact biodiversity status and ecosystem structures, functions and services. We suggest to add this as vii to follow a logic, but placing it at i is also fine.