



Template for the review of the draft standards and guidelines associated with the draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area

I. Background

1. The draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area ([ISBA/25/C/WP.1](#)) require that certain issues are addressed in accordance with, or taking into account, standards and guidelines to be developed by the organs of the Authority. The standards will be adopted by the Council and will be legally binding on Contractors and the Authority, whereas the guidelines will be issued by the Legal and Technical Commission or the Secretary-General and will be recommendatory in nature.
2. Stakeholder consultation is an integral part of the process decided upon by the Commission for the development of the standards and guidelines ([ISBA/25/C/19/Add.1](#)).
3. The Legal and Technical Commission will consider the comments received through stakeholder consultation during its current session.
4. The drafts include a cover page containing background and contextual information on the approach taken by the Legal and Technical Commission in developing each standard and guidelines. Please note that stakeholder comments are not sought on this cover note.
5. Issues of format and consistency across the standards and guidelines will be reviewed by the secretariat and the Legal and Technical Commission once the content of the various standards and guidelines is finalized following stakeholder consultation.

II. Submitting Comments

6. To ensure that your comments are given due consideration, please send them by e-mail to ola@isa.org.im, at your earliest convenience but **no later than the date announced on the ISA website for the relevant draft standards and guidelines**.
7. When submitting comments, please adhere to the following guidance as much as possible:
 - a. Please provide all comments in writing and in an MS Word .doc or .docx format using the table provided below.
 - b. The table format allows for an unlimited number of comments to be added. To add more comments, you may add more rows.

- c. Please provide full contact information for the individual/Government/organization submitting the comments.
 - d. Please avoid commenting on issues related to format, grammar, spelling or punctuation, unless it affects the overall meaning of the text, as the document will be formatted and edited when the final draft is prepared by the Legal and Technical Commission.
 - e. To facilitate the revision process please be as specific as possible in your comments. In areas where you feel additional or alternative text or information is required, please suggest what this text may look like or what information should be included.
 - f. Text may be copied from the draft into the table if stakeholders wish to use "track changes" in editing text (this is encouraged to ensure accuracy and avoid numbering errors).
 - g. If you refer to additional sources of information, please include these with your comments when possible or provide a complete reference or hyperlink.
 - h. All review comments will be posted on the ISA website, unless otherwise requested by the submitting entity.
8. Should you have any questions regarding the review process, please contact ola@isa.org.jm.

III. Template for Comments

- 9. Please use the review template below when providing comments.
- 10. Line and page numbers have been provided in the drafts. Please use these as a reference as illustrated in the table below.

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS

<i>Document reviewed</i>	
Title of the draft being reviewed:	Draft Guidelines for the establishment of baseline environmental data
<i>Contact information</i>	
Surname:	Jantzen
Given Name:	Peter Henrik
Government (if applicable):	
Organization (if applicable):	Blue Minerals Jamaica Ltd
Country:	Jamaica
E-mail:	peter.jantzen@blue-minerals.com
<i>General Comments</i>	

BMJ appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft guideline and thanks the Legal and Technical Commission for their efforts in drafting the guideline. BMJ will only make general comments at this point.

BMJ wishes to express its support the primary goal as outlined within paragraph 5 (line 82-86) but would support suggestions also made by other contractors that a contractor develops a scoping report and TOR based on the Guidelines in collaboration with the Legal and Technical Commission. The subsequently approved TOR and scoping report would form the basis of the environmental baseline studies, thereby avoiding the uncertainty about content during the progression of the studies. Overly complex requirements on studies and techniques should be avoided as a starting point as areas of application will vary greatly.

BMJ will be developing scopes of work based on the existing Recommendations (ISBA/25/LTC/6/Rev.1.) and is concerned about differences between the existing Recommendations and the proposed Guidelines. The Recommendations that were just adopted in 2020 and are being used by contractors and applicants today seem well suited for purpose and should continue to form the basis for baseline activities. It allows the contractor and its experts to demonstrate competence to carry out the required tasks, and to provide the information required by ISA, using best practices and best available technology.

Specific Comments

Comments should be sent by e-mail to ola@isa.org.im