

MSR intervention.

Thank you Mr President

I am the observer representing WWF-International.

There is, as has been suggested on many occasions a great need for good quality comparable scientific data including environmental baseline data in the context of potential DSM activities in the Area.

The need for transparency and accountability has also been stressed with similar vigour.

In view of this it is of paramount importance that independent scientific research should be encouraged in order to complement contractor data and also to ensure that through independence accountability is also achieved.

In addition to the UNCLOS provisions on MSR referred to in ISBA 22/C/3*, we would also like to highlight that other such provisions on the regulation of MSR are provided for within other international fora such as the LC/LP. Taking into account the concept of GAIRS (Generally accepted international agreements/rules and standards), we feel it would be pertinent to consider such provisions in such agreements when discussing the balance of responsibility regarding MSR.