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Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative

Note by the secretariat

1. On 24 March 2016, the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority. The text of the letter and additional information provided by the applicant are contained in annexes I and II to the present note.
2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, may participate as observers in the Assembly.
3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule further provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly and, upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule within the scope of their activities that are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.



Annex I

Letter dated 24 March 2016 from Lisa Levin, on behalf of the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative leadership, addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

In accordance with part XVI, Observers, rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI) is seeking to participate in meetings of the Authority as an observer, including at the twenty-second session, to be held in July 2016.

DOSI seeks to integrate science, technology, policy, law and economics into advice on the ecosystem-based management of resource use in the deep ocean and strategies to maintain the integrity of deep ocean ecosystems within and beyond national jurisdictions. DOSI gathers expertise across disciplines, jurisdictions and industrial sectors to foster discussion, provide guidance and facilitate communication. As a distributed network, DOSI has leads in the United States of America, Mexico and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and has 400 members from 38 countries, including developing countries, island States and landlocked countries.

DOSI is closely affiliated with the International Network for Scientific Investigations of Deep-Sea Ecosystems (INDEEP) and the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL), a United States-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing a unified voice of the ocean science and technology community. INDEEP is composed of many of the deep-sea scientists who participated in the Census of Marine Life, and COL served as the secretariat for the Census of Marine Life. Highlights of DOSI activities relevant to deep seabed mining are set out in annex II to the note by the secretariat ([ISBA/22/A/INF/6](#)). Further information about DOSI, INDEEP and COL are available from <http://dosi-project.org>; www.indeep-project.org; and <http://oceanleadership.org>.

DOSI looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Authority and States parties with the goal of improving the knowledge base. DOSI respectfully requests that its application to be granted observer status in the International Seabed Authority be considered at the Authority's next session, in 2016.

(Signed) Lisa Levin
on behalf of the DOSI leadership

Annex II

Selected activities of the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative relevant to seabed mining

Workshops and symposiums organized (or co-organized) by the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI):

- Deep-sea mining workshop with the World Economic Forum and the Rockefeller Foundation/Resolve (Bellagio, Italy, October 2015)
- DOSI planning workshop (Aveiro, Portugal, August 2015)
- Deep-sea tailings placement workshop with the International Maritime Organization and the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) (Lima, June 2015)
- Workshop towards the development of a strategic environmental management plan for deep seabed mineral exploration and exploitation in the Atlantic basin (Azores, Portugal, June 2015)
- Deep seabed mining and Pacific cultures symposium (Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America, April 2015)
- “Defining significant impact and performing cumulative impact assessments” (La Jolla, California, United States, March 2014)
- “Deep ocean industrialization: a new stewardship frontier”, with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (Chicago, United States, February 2014)
- Inaugural workshop with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Mexico City, March 2013)

Guidance and recommendations:

- DOSI-compiled response to article 154: International Seabed Authority review questionnaire (February 2016)
- DOSI-compiled review of Pacific Community regulations and recommendations for deep sea mining (October 2015)
- DOSI response to call by the International Seabed Authority for input on report entitled “Developing a regulatory framework for mineral exploitation in the Area” (May 2015)
- DOSI-compiled response to International Seabed Authority stakeholder survey (May 2014)
- International Seabed Authority research recommendation letter (May 2014)

Webinars:

- Seabed mining webinar (Environmental Law Institute, April 2015, see <http://eli-ocean.org/seminars/seabed/>)
- DOSI marine ecosystem services partnership webinar series (2014 and 2015, see <http://dosi-project.org/dosi-outputs>)

Publications (in *Science*):

- Kathryn Mengerink and others, “A call for deep-ocean stewardship”, vol. 344, issue 6185 (May 2014)
- Lisa Wedding and others, “Managing mining of the deep seabed”, vol. 349, issue 6244 (July 2015)
- Lisa Levin and Nadine Le Bris, “Deep ocean under climate change”, vol. 350, issue 6262 (November 2015)

Traineeships: two traineeships at the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission for two Pacific islanders: three months at the University of Hawaii.

Workshop attendance:

- International Seabed Authority/Griffith Law School workshop on exploitation regulations and environmental impact assessment for deep seabed mining (Gold Coast, Australia, May 2016)
- Managing Impacts of Deep-sea Resource Exploitation (MIDAS) synthesis workshop (Ghent, Belgium, March 2016)
- MIDAS annual general meeting (Sintra, Portugal, November 2015)
- “The crafting of seabed mining ecosystem-based management: assessing deep-sea ecosystems in the Pacific” (Japan, July 2015)
- International Seabed Authority Assembly and Council meetings, July 2015 (as part of other delegations)
- “From seafloor hydrothermal systems to the sustainable exploitation of massive sulphide deposits (Norway, May 2015)
- International workshop on environmental standards for deep sea mining (Norway, May 2015)
- MIDAS expert meeting (Germany, April 2015)
- Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) ocean governance workshop (Potsdam, Germany, October 2014), with IASS and the Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research (GEOMAR)

DOSI working groups: deep seabed mining; deep sea mining transparency group (lead: J. Ardron, more than 40 members) and survey (more than 60); deep-sea genetic resources; deep-sea oil and gas; deep-sea bottom fishing, deep-sea tailings placement, deep-sea climate change, deep-sea assessments, technology, communications and capacity-building.