

WWF art 154 review statement ISA 22

Thank you Mr President,

Mr President, Assembly members and observers

The interim report of the article 154 review is indeed welcome and it has already been described as a wake-up call in many respects in particular in moving the Authority towards being a fit for purpose structure regarding the potential movement from exploration to exploitation.

In this context the following are points we would like to raise in discussing the review,

As is suggested in the review a strategic plan for the Authority is very much needed. Such a plan must also be fit for purpose and include milestones which progress can be measured against.

As part of this road map detailed documents listing the decisions of the Authority with a timetable and process for meeting such decisions should also link into this plan in order to ensure these decisions are contributing towards the goals of the authority and the progress/status of such decisions will aid in meeting these goals. The inclusion of a budget to ensure this is correctly managed is also essential.

Additionally an integral part of this strategic plan should be an environ strategy, which should also provide an overarching framework for the environmental regulations.

Within this environmental strategy there is a need for clear environmental objectives that can be monitored and inform the development of strategic environmental assessments, regional environmental management plans, as well as environmental impact assessments and the ensuing plans of work to incorporate the outcomes of the assessments. Also important will be liability and redress, and the bodies to address all necessary issues: this would seem to need an environmental committee, scientific committee, and a compliance committee.

In order to keep up with the growing workload and data capacity needs, the storage, use, analysis and communication of data and information needs to be reviewed and addressed with urgency in particular as the authority moves towards being a body that governs and regulates potential exploitation of minerals in the Area. Additionally links with confidentiality guidelines re classification and in general specific policies and procedures on data handling should be implicit.

Finally considering the common heritage of mankind and the ecosystems goods and services associated with the deep seas, the Authority needs to represent such interests fully and balance societal benefits of activities against potential losses of global ecosystems goods and services and in view of this take full account of the continuing developments in the BBNJ and SDG arena's.

Thank you ...

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