



Pakistan Mission to the United Nations
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No. Sixth/LS/6/2015

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority and with reference to latter's Note No. 96/15 of 13 March 2015, has the honour to enclose herewith submission of Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Draft Regulatory Framework for Mineral Exploitation in the Area.

The Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration.



(Report to Stakeholders (ISBA/Cons/2015(I),
International Seabed Authority,
14-20 Port Royal Street,
Kingston,
Jamaica

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SUBMISSION OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN ON DRAFT REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR MINERAL EXPLOITATION IN THE AREA

AN OPENING PARAGRAPH INTRODUCING YOU AND / OR YOUR ORGANIZATION AND YOUR DIRECT AND / OR INDIRECT INTEREST IN ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA;

The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), under the Ministry of Science & Technology, is the only pivotal research organization in Pakistan for multidisciplinary oceanographic research, with experienced and well qualified team of scientists, technicians and supporting personnel. NIO scientists have long interest with the activities in the Area and two of the scientists have been the member of the Legal & Technical Commission from 2002 to 2012.

YOUR COMMENTS REFERENCED TO THE RELEVANT PARTS AND QUESTIONS;

The Area and its resources are the Common Heritage of Mankind nevertheless it is equally important that the exploitation activities in the Area are carried out in a manner that ensures the overall health of the seabed and the adjacent water column for the benefit of mankind as a whole. This also requires conduct of Marine Scientific Research prior and post exploitation activity and the data be placed in public domain for the benefit of the mankind.

High Resolution Environmental Impact Assessment should be carried out prior to development of the chosen site and the results of the EIA must be placed in the public domain for a period to allow time for any appeals against exploitation activities. The exploiters in the Area should be responsible for covering the costs of the EIA.

Environmental impact is inevitable, during the process of exploitation, however, limits should be set to amount the disruption that is considered acceptable. Exploitation activities should not be allowed around an active hydrothermal vent due to intensive biological activity.

While deciding on the size of exploitation area, the proximity of a coastal state EEZ or CS needs to be considered to avoid fallout of environmental impacts to adjacent area. Possibility of establishing a buffer zone may be considered.

Social impact assessment should cater for the benefit of regional inhabitants who are somehow attached with the area of exploitation from socio-economic aspects. Contributions in terms of funds and training programs for such inhabitants should be included in the regulatory framework

Training obligations needs to be well defined to ensure training opportunities to regional countries and those who are interested in the activities of Area.

Inspection regime should be established on explicit and well defined criteria. An inspection commission may be established on the basis of equitable geographical

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presentation with individuals having expertise in relevant field. Such mechanism would ensure transparency and avoidance of dispute.

ANY OTHER GENERAL AND / OR SPECIFIC COMMENTS YOU WISH TO MAKE;

On the general note, it is considered that overall regulatory framework should be flexible to absorb changes and technological advancements.

Increase in the exploitation activities in the Area would also increase the possibilities of environmental disaster. The 2010 oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico has proved that even the technologically advanced and financially strong operators cannot always control or minimize the impact of the disaster. It is therefore suggested that ISA must develop a mechanism to deal with an emergency situation within its setup prior to allow any activity in the environmentally sensitive areas within the Area.

A LIST OF ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING YOUR SUBMISSION, TOGETHER WITH WEBSITE LINKS WHERE APPLICABLE;

Nil

YOUR EXPRESS CONSENT TO MAKE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS AND SUBMISSION PUBLICLY AVAILABLE;

It is hereby granted that the consent for contact details and our submission to made publicly available, and can confirm that we are interested in being contacted in future by the ISA and/or being part of a stakeholder group.

YOUR INTEREST IN FUTURE CONTACT BY THE ISA AND/OR BEING PART OF A STAKEHOLDER GROUP;

Pakistan is interested in future contact by the International Seabed Authority.

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED.

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