

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 28TH SESSION:
COUNCIL - PART II**

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete and send to council@isa.org.jm.

1. Name of Working Group:

IWG Environment

2. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

Belgium

3. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.

Draft Regulation 2

4. Kindly provide the proposed amendments to the regulation or standard or guideline in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.

3. Exploitation activities in the Area shall not commence until:

(a) the legal framework intended for the effective protection and preservation of the Marine Environment ~~has entered into force~~ is adopted;

(b) the implementation of [Target 3 of] the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is well on track in the area beyond national jurisdiction;

(c) and scientific evidence demonstrates that the Exploitation activities are conducted in such a manner as not to cause significant and harmful changes to the Marine Environment and its resources, ~~and~~ to effectively protect and preserve the Marine Environment pursuant to article 145 and Part XII of UNCLOS ~~and not to impede the full implementation of [Target 3 of] Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the area beyond national jurisdiction.~~

5. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150-word limit]

For Belgium, it is of utmost importance to approach oceans in a holistic manner. The balance between the activities in the ABNJ and the protection of the ecosystem of the ABNJ shall be achieved not only within the regulatory and/or policy framework dealing with a specific activity (e.g. deep sea mining) or the protection of an aspect or the entirety of the marine ecosystem (e.g. the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework), but also in the interplay between those frameworks. For too long, ocean policy has been equal to a silo policy, with approaches sliced into separate decision processes, often impeding the achievement of each other objectives or, as a minimum, overlooking the opportunities of a close cooperation. Therefore, we make this proposal to basically align the ISA deep sea mining process

with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, especially Target 3 (the so-called “30 by 30” target). In our eyes, this alignment is very balanced and reasonable, not aiming for a full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework prior to the commencement of Exploitation activities. But a guarantee that one process doesn’t impede the other, in combination with a strengthened protection of the areas where no deep sea mining will take place (the ocean as a holistic system) should be a minimum.