

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 30TH SESSION:
COUNCIL - PART I**

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(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

Belgium

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

Regulation 2

3. 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.

Reintegration of paragraph 3 Alt 2

Alt 2. Exploitation 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 [and the Authority has adopted an environmental policy];

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

(c) scientific evidence demonstrates that Exploitation will be conducted in such a manner so as: not to cause significant and harmful changes to the Marine Environment and its resources, [pursuant to Article 196 of , and] to effectively protect and preserve the Marine Environment[, including biological diversity and ecosystem integrity] pursuant to Article 145 and Part XII of the Convention [including biological diversity and ecosystem integrity], and not to impede the full implementation of [Target 3 of] the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the area beyond national jurisdiction.

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

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a strong global commitment to safeguard and sustainably use biodiversity, amidst a dangerous decline in nature threatening the survival of 1 million species and impacting the lives of billions of people. Target 3 aims for the effective protection by 2030 of 30% of the ocean. The time to act is now (2030 is tomorrow). This is also the case for other international environmental frameworks and goals. Neglecting the implementation status of these in the decision-making procedure for an Exploitation project would

constitute a breach of those commitments and of article 145 UNCLOS. Claiming that you are respecting article 145 UNCLOS, whilst at the same time undermining the instruments accepted to be essential to do so, is highly contradictory. Therefore, Belgium is of the opinion that this issue should be addressed in the decision-making procedure for an Exploitation project: in the draft Regulations or elsewhere, e.g. in a General Environmental Policy. We are flexible on the place to embed such a condition, on the level of detail and on the wording, and we have duly taken note of the interventions during Part I of the 29th session of the Council. However, we want to avoid to fall between two chairs: not discussing the issue here (because some States rather see this condition in a General Environmental Policy), whilst not having another discussion opportunity (because the General Environmental Policy is still not acquired as a concept). Summarizing, we'd like to bring this Alt. 2 back in the text, in order to have this in-depth discussion on making a connection between deep sea mining and 30by30 (and other international environmental frameworks and goals).