

## **Guiding Questions for Discussion on Protection of Submarine Cables (Friends of the President, Singapore) on 10 March 2026**

The Friends of the President (FOP) Group on Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines met during Part II of the 30<sup>th</sup> ISA Council meeting in July 2025, after which the FOP solicited further comments twice.<sup>1</sup> The FOP submitted a proposal<sup>2</sup> on 1 Dec 2025 for incorporation into the Further Revised Consolidated Text. The proposal provides a brief recap of past discussions, details specific amendments that have been made, and highlights key outstanding issues that would merit further discussion by the Group.

For the discussion on 10 March 2026, the FOP proposes focusing on the following issues:

1. **DR 31 / DR 31 Alt..** The FOP notes that DR 31 Alt. is a relatively new proposal that the Group has not had the opportunity to discuss. Delegations may wish to discuss the substantive differences between the two DRs before going into streamlining the text.
  - a. Should the onus to identify or acquire information about other uses or activities in the Marine Environment be on the Contractor or on the Authority? Or both?
  - b. Should there be references to other specific activities in the Marine Environment, and if so, is the proposed list in DR 31 para (2) satisfactory?
  - c. Is the elaboration in DR 31 Alt. para (4) on how the ISA should cooperate with other bodies satisfactory?
2. **DR 31 bis.** There are a number of distinct outstanding issues in this DR. In the interest of time, we could focus on the following issues that we have not had the opportunity to discuss:
  - a. With regard to para 1(b), is there value in fleshing out how a Contractor may agree with operators on measures to reduce the risks of damage to submarine cables and pipelines? If so, where or how should this be done?
  - b. Should para 1(c) be deleted, given that the issue of accommodation of other activities in the Marine Environment has already been dealt with in DR 31?
  - c. Should para 1(d) be deleted, given that it is not directly related to reducing the risks of damage to submarine cables and pipelines?

Please feel free to share any questions/comments (not limited to the guiding questions above) with the FOP at [beatrice\\_chen@mti.gov.sg](mailto:beatrice_chen@mti.gov.sg) or in person.

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<sup>1</sup> Past reports and materials circulated by the FOP can be found here: <https://isa.org.jm/session-30-council-part-2-july-2025/>

<sup>2</sup> Link to submission: <https://isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/FOP-Submarine-Cables-Submission-01122025.docx>