

## Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

### DSCC Intervention Agenda Item 10

Thank-you Mr. President

On the issue of performance indicators proposed by the Secretary General for consideration by the Assembly in ISBA/25/A/5 (*“Implementation of the strategic plan of the International Seabed Authority: draft performance indicators for the period 2019–2023”*) we have the following brief comments:

We strongly concur that “ensuring effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities undertaken in the Area...[through the development of rules, regulations and procedures] is a core component of the Authority’s mandate” as stated in paragraph 12. In this regard we support the proposal from Costa Rica to align the performance indicator with this and the relevant obligations for the protection of the marine environment in the convention.

Similarly we align ourselves with the proposal from Costa Rica to add a performance indicator along similar lines to Strategic direction 4 entitled “Promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area”.

Regarding Strategic direction 9 entitled “Commit to transparency” we concur with the statement in paragraph 41 of A/5 that “Transparency is an essential element of good governance and, therefore, a fundamental guiding principle of the Authority in the conduct of its activities.”

There has been repeated support from many delegations over the past week and half and in previous sessions of the Council and Assembly for greater transparency, including in the decision of the Assembly at the conclusion of the Article 154 review.

We appreciate the proposal from Costa Rica for an additional performance indicator in this section and we would urge delegations to support this and the previous recommendations from Costa Rica. We think that strategic direction 9 in particular lends itself well for setting tangible, measurable outcomes of performance. In this regard we would suggest two additional performance indicators:

1. The number of open meetings of the Legal and Technical Commission.

As delegates recall, the Assembly in its decision in 2017 on the implementation of the Article 154 review, in Section G, paragraph 4. “Encourag[ed]es the Legal and Technical Commission to hold more open meetings in order to allow for greater transparency in its work. We would recommend that this also include webcasting of the meetings, as well as publication of detailed records of the LTC discussions, for example in relation to the performance of contractors, and the reasons for recommendations of the LTC.

2. The establishment of a process of soliciting and taking on board public comment on any future EIAs and monitoring plans provided to the Authority for the testing of mining equipment or other activities for which EIAs are required under (Part VI, section B of the revised) the LTC’s “Recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area” and as required under the exploration regulations.

We also support the Holy See’s suggestion of economic valuation of environmental damage for 3.4.1.

We could be more specific and say “economic valuation of environmental damage including to ecosystem services and natural capital”.

*[3.4.1. Establish robust monitoring programmes and methodologies to assess the potential risks that activities in the Area interfere with the ecological balance of the marine environment]*

Finally, we would reiterate our recommendation from previous sessions for the establishment of a scientific committee or scientific working group of the ISA and continue to encourage both the Council and the Assembly to consider. This is something that we would see as a ‘high level’ tangible benefit to all organs of the ISA and its states parties.

Thank-you Mr. President