



DSCC intervention on Draft decision of the Council concerning a standardized approach for the development, approval and review of regional environmental management plans in the Area (ISBA/26/C/CRP.4)

20 February 2020

Thank you Madam President

We are concerned about this proposal - it does not fully reflect the discussion we had yesterday. The German and Dutch paper, co-sponsored by Costa Rica (ISBA/26/C/7) had suggested a specific template, document, which was developed in the Hamburg workshop, as well as specific suggestions on procedure, based on experience developed over the past few years.

It is particularly important that standardized procedures and the template are applied to REMPs currently undergoing development. The transparency provisions included in the German Dutch proposal are particularly important. It is crucial that this process is open to the public and agendas and reports developed in a transparent manner.

The LTC already has a considerable workload and this procedure could benefit from continued development in transparent and participatory workshops. If and when it does go to the LTC then the LTC should be tasked to work on this in an open, transparent and participatory manner, including by holding all discussions on the further development of the template and standardized procedures for REMPs in open sessions of the LTC, in light of the Decision adopted by the Assembly of the ISA at the conclusion of the Article 154 Review in 2017.

The African Group's proposal to delete "as appropriate", supported by other delegations, is helpful, but fundamentally we think States, scientists and other stakeholders should continue to work through a process of workshops to get the range of scientific and other expertise that would most benefit the further development of this very important component of the ISA environmental work.

Thank-you