

24 November 2020

To: Christine Griffiths
Office Manager, Office of the Secretary-General
International Seabed Authority
14 - 20 Port Royal Street
Kingston, Jamaica

Subject: Observer accreditation

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your email of 13 November responding to my query about observer accreditation.

We are aware of the understandable decisions not to hold a physical meeting of the Council or the Assembly this year.

We are also aware of the Note from the Secretary-General, Note No. ISA/EOSG/2020/141, in which the Secretary-General asked for credentials of representatives of Members. It was that Note that prompted our request, to ensure that the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition delegates are duly accredited for the entire 26th session.

We are also aware of the silence procedure currently adopted by both Assembly and Council, and believe that it is important that observers be made aware of proposals and decisions made under the silence procedure. As indicated in our attached letter to the former Council President, Dr Kathy-Ann Brown, we anticipated that observers would be notified, along with States, of both prospective and adopted decisions. We were therefore concerned that there may have been an omission to accredit DSCC as an observer to the entire 26th session.

We therefore take it from your reply that no further action by us is needed, and will bring our interest in the Authority's activity under the silence procedure to the attention of the Presidents of the Assembly and Council respectively. Please let us know if we are incorrect in our understandings in any of the above respects.

Yours sincerely,
Sian Owen
Global Coordinator
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition