

Committee: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Topic: Regulating deep-sea mining in international waters

Sponsor: Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Co-Sponsors: Guyana, Nigeria, Japan

Signatories: United Kingdom, Mexico, Portugal, Israel, South Korea, USA, Brazil

Recalling the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which declares that the seabed and ocean floor beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone constitute the common inheritance of humankind,

Recognizing the role of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in overseeing exploration and exploitation activities in international waters on behalf of all States,

Acknowledging that deep-sea mining (DSM) presents significant environmental and ethical dilemmas,

Alarmed by growing scientific concern over the potential for irreversible damage to fragile deep-sea ecosystems, the loss of biodiversity, and the disruption of oceanic carbon cycles,

Guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Goal 13 (Climate Action), and Goal 14 (Life Below Water),

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism, environmental protection, and equitable access to global resources, as well as stopping the overuse of seabed minerals,

Taking into account Pakistan's national policy on Blue Economy, which emphasizes the sustainable and inclusive development of ocean resources for national and regional prosperity,

1. **Calls** for a temporary moratorium for 10 or more years - after which the situation will be reevaluated - on the commercial-scale deep-sea pursuit of permission for Deep Sea Mining in international waters until peer-reviewed scientific evidence ensures that such activities can be conducted without significant harm to marine biodiversity and ecosystems;
2. **Proposes** the establishment of a United Nations Deep Sea Research and Monitoring Programme (UN-DSRMP) under the joint administration of UNEP, ISA, and UNESCO to:
 - a) coordinate global research on deep-sea ecosystems and biodiversity,
 - b) promote data-sharing between developed and developing nations through ISA
 - c) set minimum environmental standards and monitoring mechanisms,

- d) require cumulative impact assessments, and
- e) establish a compensation mechanism for affected ecosystems and coastal communities;

3. **Encourages** Members to prioritize economic strategies, including mineral recycling, re-use, and substitution technologies, to reduce global dependence on seabed extraction;
4. **Recognizing** the extreme importance and urgency in which this topic must be treated and highly encourages the ISA to create rules and regulations on deep sea mining that are relevant to this topic,
 - a) Organizing these 6 subgroups based off the UN's 6 continental regions each with a leader to help spearhead and move through this problem with haste;
5. **Calls** upon the international community to recognize the linkage between deep sea mining and the steady decrease of marine ecosystem health, climate regulation, and global food security, as well as to integrate these concerns into future negotiations on ocean governance;
6. **Requests** increased recycling of rare earth metals to reduce demand from the deep sea, including,
 - a. Cobalt, a highly recyclable material that can be toxic to humans, and can prove more cost effective than mining,
 - b. Lithium, which may have more difficulty being recycled, therefore the focus should be on improving current recycling practices i.e. finding ways to decrease harmful byproducts of the pyrometallurgy method;