

Written Intervention for the Dialogue on Ocean and Climate Change at SB64

June 11, 2026

The Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this Global Dialogue on the Ocean and Climate Change. As science advances, so too does our understanding that the deep ocean (below 200 m water depth) is not a remote or isolated realm. It covers most of the ocean, both within and beyond national jurisdiction, functioning as a central regulator of Earth's climate system, a reservoir of biodiversity, and a foundation for planetary resilience.

We wish to highlight that much climate regulation comes from the natural blue carbon properties of the biological pump in the open ocean, including areas beyond jurisdiction (60% of ocean). We welcome further exploration of how the BBNJ agreement can work within its 4 pillars (ABMT, EIAs, MGRs and CBTT) alongside UNFCCC and other IFBs (CBD, RFMOs, ISA, CMS), to advance blue carbon conservation through biodiversity conservation in the open ocean and deep water. We also note that the national and international ocean are connected to each other working together to sequester carbon; that the organisms and processes do not perceive boundaries. This means that activities in one arena affect the other, whether mining, fishing or mCDR interventions and Dialogue discussions and NDC actions must acknowledge this.

Recent decisions by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), including the adoption of Motions 032 (on protection of seamounts and VMEs) and 035 (on protection of mesopelagic ecosystem integrity), calling for precaution, strengthened environmental governance, and protection of deep-ocean ecosystems, reflect a growing global consensus: the deep ocean must be safeguarded as a critical component of climate stability and biodiversity conservation.

At the same time, discussions at the International Seabed Authority (ISA) have entered a decisive phase. The ongoing negotiations on the Mining Code, the increasing number of calls for a precautionary pause or moratorium, and the clear scientific evidence of long-lasting ecological harm all underscore the need for robust, science-based decision-making. DOSI emphasizes that the best available science shows that deep-sea mining, if initiated without comprehensive knowledge and strong environmental safeguards, poses irreversible risks to ecosystems that play essential roles in carbon cycling, nutrient regeneration, and climate regulation.

The IUCN Motions, BBNJ, and the ISA process are not separate conversations, they are deeply interconnected. Together, they highlight the urgent need for global coherence in how we manage, protect, and understand the deep ocean. As Parties advance work

under the UNFCCC, including the Global Stocktake and ocean-climate action pathways, DOSI encourages the integration of three key principles:

1. Decisions affecting the deep ocean must reflect the overwhelming scientific evidence of ecological vulnerability and slow recovery rates.
2. UNFCCC processes, IUCN resolutions, and ISA negotiations should reinforce and not contradict each other in safeguarding ocean-climate integrity.
3. Strengthening global capacity for deep-ocean observation, biodiversity assessment, and climate-relevant science is essential for informed policy.

As the climate crisis accelerates, the deep ocean remains one of humanity's greatest allies. Protecting it is not only an environmental imperative, it is a climate imperative. DOSI stands ready to support Parties with the best available science to ensure that decisions taken today preserve the deep ocean's functions for generations to come.