

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AT THE ISA: CURRENT LANDSCAPE AND NEXT STEPS

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Outline

1. Who are the relevant stakeholders?
2. Current opportunities for participation at the ISA
3. Opportunities for increasing participation at the ISA

Thank you to my co-authors Hannah Lily and Jeff Ardron
Any errors are my own.

1. Who are the relevant stakeholders?

- ISA constituency: (hu)mankind

'All rights in the resources of the Area are vested in mankind as a whole, on whose behalf the Authority shall act.' UNCLOS, article 137(2)

- Member states do not represent the diversity of humankind



2. Current opportunities for participation at the ISA

1. Observer status
2. Online stakeholder consultations on draft documents
3. Technical workshops
4. Outreach events
5. Increased transparency & online presence

2. Current opportunities for participation at the ISA

- **Observers:**
 - Participation without a vote
 - E.g. non-member states & NGOs (must demonstrate their interest in DSM)
 - Currently no observers representing indigenous communities or youth and very few representing the Global South.
- **Stakeholder consultations**
 - On various drafts of the Mining Code and policy documents
 - Open to the public
 - But in practice mainly states & small group of other organisations
 - Focus of these consultations is rather technical

2. Current opportunities for participation at the ISA

- Technical workshops:
 - Direct engagement with industry, scientists, academia etc
 - Not open to the public
 - Lack of transparency around invitation system
- Outreach events
 - Increasing number, some targeted at developing states
 - Information of ISA activities or seeking stakeholder views?
- Increased transparency & online presence
 - Live streaming of annual session
 - Social media / website to inform public of ISA activity

3. Opportunities for increasing participation at the ISA

- 1) Ensure stakeholder submissions are given due consideration
- 2) Outreach on broader policy questions, not only technical documents
 - How could/should benefits be shared with humankind?
 - What level of harm to the marine environment is deemed acceptable by the public?
 - E.g. EU's outreach to general public in 2014
- 3) Stakeholder engagement strategy

3. Opportunities for increasing participation at the ISA

- 4) Proactively encourage & support participation by communities that are underrepresented by governments, incl. indigenous communities
- 5) Engagement in implementing ISA decisions
 - Creation of environmental baselines
 - Monitoring of environmental effects
- 6) Covid-19 may reduce public participation

Thank you