



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Second Session

Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction of the Intergovernmental Conference (BBNJ)

Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York, 01 April 2019

5.3 Activities for which an environmental impact assessment is required

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator. We associate ourselves with the statement made by Palestine on behalf of G77 and China.

On activities for which an environmental impact assessment is required, the Philippines is of the view that EIA must be done for activities in ABNJ, as well as for those which will have potential adverse effect in ABNJ.

The thresholds and criteria for environmental impact assessments

On the thresholds and criteria for environmental impact assessments, we support Option II.

List of activities that require or do not require an environmental impact assessment

On list of activities that require or do not require an EIA, we support Option I on subparagraph (1), and under it Option A. On subparagraph (2), we support Option I.

It is the position of the Philippines that the indicative non-exhaustive list of activities are those activities located within ABNJ, and that the list must be updated in a regular manner.

Cumulative impacts

On cumulative impacts, we support Option I on subparagraph (1). The Philippines supports the view that cumulative impacts must be taken into account in the conduct of EIAs.

Under subparagraph (1) item (a), we support the merger of Option A and Option B, with modification, to wit:

- “(a) The process for assessing cumulative impacts in areas beyond national jurisdiction and how these impacts shall be taken into account in the environmental impact assessment process for planned activities consists of the following [...] Guidelines for when to take cumulative impacts into account shall be developed by the body set forth in Part [...].”

Transboundary impacts

We support the consideration of transboundary impacts in EIAs. However, the Philippines is of the view that “adjacent coastal States” must be reflected in subparagraph (2), instead of “adjacent areas.”

Specific provision for environmental impact assessments in areas identified as ecologically or biologically significant or vulnerable

We support Option I on the specific provision for environmental impact assessments in areas identified as ecologically or biologically significant or vulnerable. And, on Option I subparagraph (2), we support Option C.

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator.