**DOSI Intervention**

**UN Oceans Conference, Partnership Dialogue 6,**

**8th June 2017**

Thank you.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

The global ocean is deep: more than 98% of the volume of the ocean lies below 200m.

This is the largest biosphere on Earth and provides essential services as well as important resources. We have much to discover -with vast areas still unexplored- and a lack of baseline information about the functionality of deep ocean ecosystems.

While many scientific questions remain unanswered; the cumulative impacts of climate change, deoxygenation and acidification - interacting with direct disturbance from human activities - threaten these deep ocean ecosystems and the services they provide (before we have come to understand them).

International and interdisciplinary scientific collaboration is crucial to fill knowledge gaps, and provide information needed to conserve and sustainably use the global ocean – locally and as a whole.

The Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI), the International Network for Scientific Investigation of Deep-Sea Ecosystems (INDEEP) and the Deep Ocean Observing Strategy Group (DOOS) constitute a growing global scientific network of more than 1000 deep-sea scientists from 45 countries, that can helpin three key areas:

Firstly, to champion and engage in the development of a deep ocean observing system (as part of the Global Ocean Observing System) that is integrated, coordinated and sustained;

Secondly, to encourage scientific inquiry into the cumulative effects of climate change and other human-induced stressors in the deep ocean- within and beyond national jurisdiction;

As well as to promote the accessibility of deep-ocean data.

And Thirdly, to offer deep-sea science input to legal and policy developments (related to biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, deep sea-bed mining, oil and gas, fisheries, climate change, and other issues) at national and international levels.

By facilitating international scientist connections, DOSI, INDEEP and DOOS will help to:

* advance deep ocean knowledge by strengthening global research alliances and cross-disciplinary integration;
* develop and transfer technology by facilitating information sharing; and
* strengthen scientific capacity by sharing skills and expertise with scientists from all disciplines and all countries.

Thank you.

*Delivered by Harriet Harden-Davies*

*Presenting: SDG14 Voluntary Commitment DOSI/INDEEP/DOOS*

*#OceanAction15238* [*https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15238*](https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15238)