

4th IGC-BBNJ - March 18th, 2022 - Philippe Raposo (Brazil)

Madam President, thank you.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of CLAM, the African Group and CARICOM.

Over the last few days, much has been discussed about collection of, access to and utilization of MGRs, including commercialization of products thereof. However, we should not fail to remember that the BBNJ Agreement is also about conservation, sustainable use of MGRs, as well as fair and equitable sharing of benefits, especially for developing States.

In the opinion of the African Group, CARICOM and CLAM, comprising 83 member States, besides the delegations that have expressed support for our proposals, 'access' to MGRs should be understood under a broader definition, including 'collection' of in situ and 'access' to ex situ, 'derivatives' and other forms of storage, including DSI. By starting from a broader definition, the BBNJ system will be more likely to guarantee sustainability and traceability of activities related to MGRs.

We support the establishment of an access and benefit-sharing mechanism (ABSM) combined with a clearing-house mechanism (CHM), which, in our view, will operationalize benefit-sharing and ensure more transparency to the system. Notifications of both access and utilization should be done through an open and self-declaratory electronic system, within the architecture of the ABSM and the CHM combined appropriately.

As developing nations, we advocate that benefit-sharing must include both monetary and non-monetary benefits on a mandatory basis. We also understand that monetary benefits must be shared upon the commercialization of products based on MGRs from BBNJ, including their derivatives.

Madam President, we look forward to establishing an effective, implementable, access and benefit-sharing system that is reasonable and fair. If the Member States of the UN, and the broader international community, seeks meaningfully to succeed in IGC-5, all delegations must face the fact that concessions will have to be made.

With that in mind, we are pleased to inform that the African Group, CARICOM and CLAM, together with other supportive groups and delegations, are committed to presenting a joint proposal on MGRs and benefit-sharing, with a view to reaching a fair and equitable benefit-sharing on the one hand; and an effective and implementable Part II of the agreement on the other hand.

At this point, it is incumbent on me to request for an extended deadline after today for us to present the joint proposal, which we would like to be considered in the next revised President's text.

Thank you, Madam President.