

BBNJ IGC 4 Agenda item 6. Informal informals on Capacity building and transfer of marine technology, 8 March 2022, WWF International STATEMENT

Distinguished delegates,

WWF wishes to share a few thoughts we hope will be useful for delegates on this topic - Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine Technology (CB&TmT). We also provide a few text suggestions.

The text of Part V needs to give priority to supporting States:

1. **in meeting obligations set out in the BBNJ ILBI and other identified agreements** with relevant biodiversity conservation and sustainability provisions;
2. **in implementing the decisions of the BBNJ COP and of other bodies** established under these other agreements; and
3. **in contributing to meeting relevant SDG targets** (which are spread across several Goals).

Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine Technology needs to be seen as a cross-cutting issue as well as a stand-alone issue.

There are substantial overlaps between CB&TmT opportunities and benefit sharing as part of any MGR access regime that might be agreed for Part II of a BBNJ ILBI.

Furthermore, WWF would like to suggest that a reporting obligation be established by amending Article 47.5 to read::

(47.)5. In supporting the monitoring and review of capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, States Parties ... [may] shall submit [on a voluntary basis] reports ...'

WWF supports G77&China, Switzerland and UK on mandatory reporting. We also support in particular Switzerland on need to report on what non-governmental actors are doing in the field of CB&TmT.

Finally, WWF urges States to recognise that, given the high degree of connectivity within the ocean realm, ensuring the conservation and sustainability of BBNJ will often involve collaborative management of resources and control of activities in areas within national jurisdiction. Similarly, the capacity building and technology transfer needs likely to be identified are likely to contribute to meeting broader maritime development needs beyond those limited to activities within ABNJ. Such broader application should be welcomed by States and, to avoid any uncertainty as to the intent of negotiators, WWF urges the adoption of appropriate Part V text along the lines of:

Article 42(a)(a) Assist States Parties, in particular developing States Parties, in the management of biological resources and in the control of related activities of nationals (vessels, companies and people) within their jurisdiction and control that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ.

WWF notes, in this regard that the current formulation of the general objective in Article 2 requires elaboration in relevant Parts of the ILBI if the intent of States is to be clarified. If this broader framing of the eligibility for development assistance is not included, there is a risk of a perverse outcome whereby developing coastal states are obliged to shoulder some of the conservation and sustainability burden for BBNJ while benefits flow primarily to those developed states currently enjoying established access to biological resources in ABNJ.

WWF's 'IGC4 Shadow Outcome' brief can be found [here](#). WWF's brief on Reporting can be found [here](#). Thank you.