



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

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, 03 April 2019

Thank you, Madame President.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by the State of Palestine on behalf of G77 and China, and now take the floor in national capacity.

IV. Institutional Arrangements

As a preliminary point, we support the identification and elaboration of institutional bodies and their functions within the instrument. However, we believe that the substantive aspects of the instrument need to be more fully elaborated by our next session, before we can determine the institutional framework with greater certainty. We cannot put the cart before the horse, as it were.

1. Decision-making body/forum

On the Decision-making body/forum in subparagraph (1), the Philippines supports Option I on the establishment of a conference of the parties/meeting of States parties as the instrument's decision-making body.

We can look to existing institutions with similar governing structures as models for such decision-making body.

2. Scientific/ technical body

On subparagraph (1), we support Option I establishing a scientific/technical body or a pool of independent scientific experts. We do not support Option III, and also ask for its deletion.

On subparagraph (2), we support Option I which lists the main functions of such scientific/technical body. We can engage in more detailed discussions on its particular functions, including the streamlining of those currently listed in Option I.

3. Other subsidiary bodies

We support the establishment of subsidiary bodies, noting that Paragraph 2, Option A, sub-paragraph (i) would already mandate the Conference of Parties to establish such subsidiary bodies. We are flexible in providing for specific language in this sub-section, outlining the most essential subsidiary bodies that should be identified in the instrument. However, this should be consistent with the proposed mandate of the COP to constitute other necessary subsidiary bodies, and to provide for their functions or terms of reference.

4. Secretariat

Finally, on sub-paragraph (1), we support Option I on the establishment of a Secretariat under the instrument.

On subparagraph (2), we support the elaboration of its functions within the instrument, as reflected in Option I. We are open to streamlining the current listing under Option I to reflect only the most basic functions of a Secretariat, as we believe that it may still be premature to negotiate the details.

Thank you.