

Oral report of the Co-Chairs of the BBNJ Preparatory Commission

Informal Working Group III – Financial rules, and financial resources and mechanism

Arrangements with the Global Environment Facility to give effect to the relevant provisions on funding

Delivered on 25 April 2025

Informal Working Group III continued the consideration of the issue of “Arrangements with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to give effect to the relevant provisions on funding” on 21 April.

At the outset, the GEF representative provided clarifications on the questions raised by delegations during the first week of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom) I concerning the aid to discussions and negotiations prepared by the Co-Chairs (A/AC.296/2025/8).

Additional input was then provided by some delegations concerning the aid, with proposals made on possible adjustments to the text of the document. We noted that the additional input appeared to be consistent with the discussions held during the first week of PrepCom I and was largely reflected in the oral report on those discussions.

In view of the ongoing process for the ninth replenishment of the GEF trust fund, to cover the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2030, the Informal Working Group also held a preliminary exchange of views on the process for providing possible provisional guidance to the GEF replenishment participants to consider for the interim period until the Conference of the Parties is able to provide such guidance and give effect to article 52, paragraph 9, of the Agreement. Noting that funding had already been made available under the current GEF-8 cycle to support ratification and implementation readiness for the Agreement, support was expressed for allocating adequate resources during the GEF-9 cycle for the implementation of the Agreement, with clarification sought on the mandate of the PrepCom to provide such provisional guidance.

On the way forward, it was agreed that a revised version of the aid to discussions and negotiations would be prepared by the Co-Chairs, taking into account the input provided during PrepCom I. In this regard, the Co-Chairs invited delegations wishing to further inform the preparation of the revised version by providing written input to do so by sending such input by 2 May.