



ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

17th APRIL 2025

CONFERENCE ROOM 3

TALKING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor. I have the honour of delivering this intervention on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

As we have highlighted in previous interventions, when considering elements for subsidiary bodies, we must explicitly examine how each helps operationalise the key provisions of the Agreement, including and in particular the special circumstances of SIDS.

We see the finance committee as an important body to support the Conference of the Parties in matters related to the financial mechanism established under Article 52. In that regard, we strongly support its full establishment at the first session of the COP.

Article 52.14 provides a list of functions:

The committee shall periodically report and make recommendations on the identification and mobilisation of funds under the mechanism. It shall also collect information and report on funding under other mechanisms and instruments contributing directly or indirectly to the achievement of the objectives of this Agreement. In addition to the considerations provided in this article, the committee shall consider, inter alia: (a) The assessment of the needs of the Parties, in particular developing States Parties; (b) The availability and timely disbursement of funds; (c) The transparency of decision-making and management processes concerning fundraising and allocations; (d) The accountability of the recipient developing States Parties with respect to the agreed use of funds.

We would also want to consider adding:

- Develop criteria and guidelines for determining funding priorities, taking into account the special circumstances of SIDS, and also taking into account needs assessments referred to in part IV and in 52.14.b
- Consider mechanisms/processes for access to funding for capacity-constrained Parties, particularly SIDS in light of their special circumstances

- Review the effectiveness of financial provision in addressing the needs and special circumstances of SIDS in implementing the Agreement

In conducting its work, the Finance Committee should be able to have dedicated agenda items or work programs focused on SIDS financing needs.

As we strongly advocate for building effective and responsive institutional arrangements, we have indicated our support for autonomous yet collaborative interactions between the various committees and bodies established under the Agreement, as well as the Clearinghouse mechanism, while ensuring SIDS' concerns remain at the forefront of their deliberations. We would be open to considering formal coordination mechanisms with other SBs, in particular the ICC, CBTMT and ABS Committees, to ensure coherence in addressing implementation support needs, particularly for SIDS. This could be through a joint dedicated Programme of Work on SIDS.

We also believe that collaborative interaction with other instruments, frameworks and bodies will be important in advancing the objectives of this Agreement and look forward to exploring that in greater depth at PrepCom2.

It is important to permit virtual meetings when necessary, though these should be exceptions rather than the rule. We suggest allowing flexibility for various bodies to determine their meeting dates, frequency, modalities for virtual meetings, and possibilities for intersessional work.

As provided for in Article 48 of the Agreement, we support meetings being open to observers as the standard practice, with committees determining exceptions when necessary.

To ensure effective participation of SIDS representatives, adequate and dedicated funding to support participation from members of the finance committee is needed.

When committee members cannot agree on a recommendation, all views expressed should be captured and forwarded to the COP. Again, this could be accomplished by annexing inputs from relevant members to the report, as practised in other bodies such as the IMO.

To ensure implementation of the Agreement operationalises Article 7.m, any decision or recommendation that could significantly impact SIDS implementation capacity or require SIDS-specific responses must provide adequate opportunity for SIDS to present concerns and alternatives before finalising recommendations to the COP. This will ensure that any recommendation or decision taken in the context of the Agreement will not represent a disproportionate burden on SIDS.

In terms of composition, we support a limited membership body, though we are still considering the optimal formula and number of members and size. That said, the formula should implement equitable geographical distribution and gender balance. Dedicated seats for SIDS experts would support the operationalization of Article 7.m, for reasons explained earlier.

In terms of selection, experts who possess the qualifications and expertise and who participate in their individual expert capacity would be nominated by Parties and elected by the COP.

In light of the matters at hand, we believe a provision on conflicts of interest is critical in this body.

While acknowledging that the terms of members are inherently connected to the frequency of COP meetings, we can consider staggered elections and introduce a provision that would allow members to be re-elected only once, in the interest of balancing continuity with opportunities for broader participation.