



Statement of Hiroko Muraki Gottlieb

Head of Delegation and Representative for the Ocean, International Council of Environmental Law

Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement 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 and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement (First Session)

Item 5: Financial Rules governing the funding of the COP and the funding of the secretariat and any subsidiary bodies (Cluster III, Issue 8)

New York, Thursday, 16 April 2025

Check against delivery

Mr. Co-Chair,

Thank you for giving International Council of Environmental Law the floor.

Regarding question 2, to support sound, adequate, and sustainable funding from a wide range of donors to fund BBNJ's Voluntary Trust Fund and/or the Special Trust Fund, the PrepCom could consider institutional arrangements and processes that would enable effective outreach to donors. For example, it is not clear in the BBNJ Agreement and lacking in the draft financial rules on the financial committee's mandate to conduct outreach to donors. If the financial committee will not perform such a function, would the COP establish a fundraising governing body? Could the Clearing-House Mechanism conduct matchmaking between donors and those who are in need based on certain criteria? Such a process could save a tremendous amount of time for the donors and the recipients. Once options for matches are available, the COP would approve the contribution arrangements based on its review.

An organized and easy process to make voluntary contributions would incentivize donors to give. At the same time, we agree with the distinguished delegate of CLAM that financial rules will require careful considerations on private contributions, including on possible conflicts of interest and accountability.

Thank you.

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