



High Seas Alliance PrepCom 1 Interventions

Name of meeting: BBNJ PrepCom 1

Date of delivery: 22 April 2025

Speaker: High Seas Alliance

Intervention on Agenda Item 5 on the Clearing-House Mechanism

Thank you, co-chairs,

This intervention is by the Natural Resources Defence Council on behalf of the High Seas Alliance.

As other delegations have noted, the Clearing-House Mechanism will play a central role in implementing the BBNJ Agreement.

We support the idea of an interim phase for the Clearing-House Mechanism, as it would allow Parties to fulfil the various information sharing and notification obligations that will accrue upon entry into force of the Agreement, and provide the CoP with a valuable opportunity to gather experience as it further develops specific modalities. We suggest using the term interim phase rather than pilot phase, and the term “interim” conveys the idea of starting small and ramping up towards the full-scale final clearing-house mechanism, where as the term “pilot” can imply the phase can stop.

With regard to question 1 what elements are required for operationalizing an effective and fit for purpose, we recommend that the interim Clearing House Mechanism phase addresses:

- 1) the simple uploading and downloading functions mandated across the Agreement. From a technical standpoint, these functions are similar regardless of whether the information to be exchanged is related to EIA, CBTMT or MGRs;
- 2) A simple alert or notification function, also similar from an IT perspective across the Agreement;
- 3) Generation of the batch identifier for MGRs; and
- 4) the matchmaking function in Part V for capacity building.

We further recommend that the interim phase should embed measures to foster security and authenticity of uploaded information, and ensure transparency, user-friendliness and real time functionality, none of which, from a technical perspective, are complex or difficult to operationalise.

Thank you, co-chairs.