



High Seas Alliance PrepCom 1 Interventions

Name of meeting: BBNJ PrepCom 1

Date of delivery: 16 April 2025

Speaker: High Seas Alliance

Agenda Item 4, 5 and 6.

I will address questions 4, 5 and 6.

4 On the Threshold and agenda for extraordinary meetings and the role of the COP regarding emergency measures under Art.24

Firstly, we would caution against moving too far from the Agreement text, which provides for the COP to take decisions: whether this necessarily implies a meeting could be left for future eventualities. Likewise, we caution against adding any language on a threshold or agenda which goes beyond that in article 24. Such measures may be adopted intersessionally. We note that consultation is required with IFBs and urge flexibility in how the CoP would address unknown future issues.

5 Agenda items and timelines

For the CoP and subsidiary bodies to have well founded discussions it is critical that background documents are available and circulated in all working languages well in advance of the meeting. 40-50 days perhaps may be an appropriate period.

6 Procedures for observers

We thank the many delegates who have supported transparency and continuing the precedent set by the IGC on the IGC on access by observers. We would reiterate the need for accreditation procedures not to be unduly burdensome or onerous and for participation provisions to fully reflect the transparency mainstreamed through the Agreement and specified in article 48, that “the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties shall provide for modalities for such participation and shall not be unduly restrictive in this respect. The rules of procedure shall also provide for such representatives to have timely access to all relevant information.”

Thank you