



# High Seas Alliance PrepCom 1 Interventions

Name of meeting: BBNJ PrepCom 1

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Speaker: High Seas Alliance

## Intervention on Agenda Item 5 on arrangements for the functioning of the Secretariat, including its seat.

Thank you, Co-chairs, for the opportunity to share the views of the High Seas Alliance on the Secretariat.

We join other delegations in thanking the secretariat for the Note on Arrangements for the functioning of the secretariat, including its seat.

The Secretariat will be the backbone of the BBNJ Agreement and the first point of contact for States on most day-to-day questions and issues. The Secretariat will also play an important role for representing the BBNJ Agreement to the broader public. The Secretariat will also play a crucial role in maintaining institutional memory on all things BBNJ.

As such, we believe it is of crucial importance for the BBNJ Secretariat to be efficient, trusted and have strong expertise on the various aspects of the BBNJ Agreement. If States were to consider a comparative study to draw on experiences from existing Secretariats, we note that it can often be difficult to tap into practical experiences on how different Secretariats and models work in practice and therefore recommend it include anonymous interviews to allow for as accurate as possible insights. We also recommend that the comparative study includes elements to compare the operational effectiveness and efficiency of different models, such as the duration of recruitment and project management processes.

We welcome the many suggestions for transparency in developing the Secretariat model.

We suggest that the key issues to consider for the secretariat in the interests of an effective, efficient and transparent Agreement are

- (1st) transparency,
- (2nd) the efficient management and execution of the Clearing-House Mechanism,
- (3rd) effective administration of consultation,
- (4th) mechanisms for transparent cooperation including with IFBs (as listed in the Secretariat document under letter G, Other Arrangements),
- (5th) administration of the various subsidiary bodies,
- (6th) distribution of documentation and
- (lastly) organization of meetings.

Thank you co chairs