

# High Seas Alliance PrepCom 1 Interventions



Name of meeting: BBNJ PrepCom 1  
Date of delivery: 15 April 2025  
Speaker: High Seas Alliance

## Agenda Item 5, Overarching Subsidiary Bodies

Thank you, co-chairs and good afternoon delegates,

We will make some observations on commonalities for subsidiary bodies and leave for later observations on each subsidiary body.

Transparency is essential to ensure that subsidiary body information is trusted. Therefore, if separate rules of procedure are developed for subsidiary bodies, they should incorporate the same transparency rules as the CoP. We made some recommendations on this issue yesterday.

To ensure that the BBNJ Agreement's decisions are based on the best available science and traditional knowledge, and to lighten the load of the CoP wherever possible, we suggest that well-functioning subsidiary bodies with strong expertise and mandates are of critical Importance. Recognizing that even the best composed body will not cater for all eventualities, including modalities for drawing on external expertise is important, in particular for the Scientific Technical Body and Access and Benefit-Sharing Committee.

Recognizing the importance of the subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the Agreement, it is important for the PrepCom to work towards the establishment of all subsidiary bodies at CoP1, not only those specifically highlighted for consideration at that meeting.

The meaningful and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities should be ensured throughout the institutional establishment.

As many delegations raised during yesterday's discussion on the CoP Rules of Procedure proposed Rule 26, empowering the subsidiary bodies to exchange information between each other without having to go through CoP is important. We note that some subsidiary bodies, in particular the STB and ABSC also have mandates to interact with IFBs, which may also need to be reflected in the modalities.

Finally, we support the suggestion by AOSIS that all views should be reflected in the outcomes of subsidiary bodies. We also support CARICOM's suggestion that subsidiary bodies should be able to determine their own program of work.

Thank you, co-chairs.