

**STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL
RULES GOVERNING THE FUNDING OF THE BBNJ COP,
SECRETARIAT AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES.**

Thank you, Co-Chair.

1. The African Group expresses appreciation to the co-chairs for the refreshed text of the draft financial rules, which reflects some of the views expressed during our consideration of the revised draft in week one week 1 of this session.
2. The AG intends to make preliminary comments and, in this regard, welcomes the additions of some elements in the refreshed text. However, we note with concern the wording of some paragraphs in the new additions and it would be helpful if further clarity can be provided for further guidance on those new elements.
3. The African Group is in agreement with the following:
 - As we indicated in our earlier intervention, the provision on scope in rule 1 is acceptable to our African Group. Rule 1.1 will depend on what Secretariat model is adopted at the conclusion of negotiations on the matter.
 - We support a two-year financial period in rule 2 and reserve the right to come back on this;
 - The African Group can support the additions in Rule 3.3 (a) as it provides some clarity on the relationship between the Secretariat and the Finance Committee in preparing the budget. In line with our earlier intervention to explain this relationship in the FRs. We see value in the requirement for the finance committee on financial resources to prepare a report on it, which shall include the recommendations of the committee, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.]
4. The African Group will welcome information on the rationale for the new additions **“Any expected miscellaneous income shall be estimated conservatively” in rule 3.1.** Similar requests will be appreciated with

regards to the additions in **rule 3.3 (b)**. The group is still considering the additions in **rule 3.6 paragraphs (a to d)**, and we wish to reserve on the proposals.

b. On rule 4 dealing with funds, the Group is generally open to the edits on **rule 4.1, 4.3** and 4.4bis. The Group is still deliberating on the additions in rule 4.4 ter. We note that the African Group had expressed concern in our previous intervention that the wording of this rule differs from the provision of **Art 52(12)** of the BBNJ Agreement, and risk undesired interpretations. We are still studying the new additions in **rule 4.4 quarter** on “establishing a voluntary funding mechanism to facilitate the participation of representatives of Indigenous Peoples...” The Group is seeking on how this paragraph relates to the additional funding mechanism envisaged under **Article 52 (5)** of the Agreement.

c. The African Group would like to delete the reference to the special fund currently retained in brackets in paragraph 4.4, under the mutatis

d. On rule 5 dealing with Contributions, the African Group is still considering the additions in Rule 5.3 particularly the wording in paragraphs d, e and f. On 5.3 (e) While it may be helpful to have a specified period of arrears of payment that may attract any punitive measures, it is important to base any number on realistic rationales that take into account the nature of the

7. The Group is still considering other provisions of the refreshed draft Financial Rules and reserves its right to return to any rules with comments or concrete textual proposals.

8. I thank you Chair.