



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY  
(CARICOM)**

**DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF SAINT LUCIA  
AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY  
COMMISSION FOR THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE BBNJ  
AGREEMENT ON  
ITEM 5 (CLUSTER III, ISSUE 8) –**

**19 August 2025**

## **Financial Rules**

I have the honour to deliver this intervention on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We align ourselves with the interventions delivered by the Group of 77 and China and the Alliance of Small Island States.

CARICOM considers the financial rules to be essential for ensuring transparency, accountability, predictability, and fairness in the governance of the funding of the COP, Secretariat and subsidiary bodies. CARICOM's principled position is that the financial rules must facilitate all the mandates set forth in the Agreement without exception and enable the proper functioning of its institutions in service of the object and purpose of the Agreement.

CARICOM would like to thank the Co-Chairs and DOALOS for their work in preparing the revised aid to discussions and negotiations. The revised aid has benefited from the interventions of delegations at PrepCom1 and now provides more structure, safeguards, and specificity—especially on voluntary trust fund participation, arrears management, working capital reserve governance, and investment options; the revised aid also enhances financial sustainability through prudent rules on funds, reserves, and revenues.

We are moving in the right direction, and CARICOM believes that this revised aid is a solid basis for negotiations. In that regard our responses to your questions are as follows:

**On your first question on *Elements we can accept as is*** (and with the necessary caveat that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed)

We will start with the first draft rule - Rule 1.1 on scope - It is acceptable to CARICOM

Rules 3.1-3.5 on budget - are also acceptable, we should note that on 3.2 we are flexible on the provision in brackets.

We can also accept the following elements:

1. The eligibility & prioritisation of SIDS under the Voluntary Trust Fund

2. The inclusion of SIDS in the cap on assessed contributions along with LDCs
3. The flexibility for LDCs and SIDS to delay contributions if affected by force majeure
4. The inclusion of arrears provisions that align and are consistent with the arrears provisions in the COP Rules of Procedure
5. The inclusion of language that clarifies that these financial rules shall not apply mutatis mutandis to any additional funds established in accordance with Article 52(5)

**On question two on the *Missing Elements to be added to the document*,** CARICOM has nothing to add.

**3. On question three *substantive elements of disagreement or requiring adjustment*,** In line with the inclusion of language that clarifies that these financial rules shall not apply mutatis mutandis to any additional funds established in accordance with Article 52(5), CARICOM like AOSIS before us would like to request the deletion of the reference to the special fund retained in brackets in paragraph 4.4

The substantive elements in the draft are a good basis, and CARICOM would like to reaffirm that the financial rules take due account of the special circumstances of SIDS, as well as facilitate a budget process that enables prudent flexibility to adapt to evolving needs. A two-year cycle for the Financial Period is preferred for predictability/flexibility.

For harmonisation, CARICOM reaffirms the need to align budget cycles, COP/subsidiary body meetings, and reporting as best as is practicable. CARICOM also reaffirms its support for a working capital reserve.

On contributions the UN scale with a SIDS cap aligned to LDCs; and finally the preference for the UN audit process, mindful that this would relate closely to the secretariat arrangements and so this issue will have to be tailored accordingly.

Thank you again co-chairs, for your revised document that moves us in the right direction.