



# High Seas Alliance PrepCom 2 Interventions

Name of meeting: BBNJ PrepCom

Date of delivery: 22 August 2025

Speaker: High Seas Alliance

## Intervention

### Rules of Procedure 22 August 2025 High Seas Alliance Room CR1

*We are presenting this intervention on the Rules of Procedure in writing on the invitation of the Co Chair.*

On Rule 6 (1bis) and observers:

Thank you Mr co-chair

We thank Costa Rica, the Philippines, Switzerland, EU and the UK for their strong support for observer participation yesterday.

We generally support rule 6 paragraph 1bis as stated in the revised Aids by the Co-Chairs as long as a  $\frac{2}{3}$  threshold is used, so that observers would be permitted to participate unless two-thirds of Parties object.

We would have very serious concerns if all applications had to be decided by the COP rather than admitted by default, since that would mean that a failure by the COP to reach a decision by consensus or majority would result in the exclusion of observers.

Likewise, a consensus or single objection process would be an obstacle to observer participation.

Rule 48 of the Agreement provides that and I quote, “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.”

A rule requiring a vote on each observer would be unduly restrictive and inconsistent with the BBNJ’s legacy of inclusivity and transparency.

To be clear, we read paragraph 1 of draft rule 6 as granting observer status for all meetings of the COP and subsidiary bodies following the approval of the observer status.

Thank you