

## Written submission and textual proposal **from INDIA** on the draft Rules of procedure for COP to the BBNJ Agreement

27 August 2025

India thanks the Co-Chairs for preparing the draft “Rules of procedure for the Conference of Parties to the BBNJ Agreement,” and would like to make the following written submission and textual suggestions.

### **Rule 4: Date of meetings**

India is of the view that the Conference of the Parties should meet on an annual basis in order to ensure continuity and timely review of implementation. India also notes that the current drafting of Rule 4 appears overly dense, with unnecessary detail and overlap in relation to ordinary and extraordinary meetings. We therefore suggest a simplified formulation.

With respect to extraordinary meetings, India is of the view that such meetings should be convened only upon the support of two-thirds of the Parties, and that a 90-day notice period should apply from the date on which a Party’s request is communicated by the secretariat. This approach would strike an appropriate balance between responsiveness to urgent matters and the need to preserve procedural clarity and inclusivity.

### **Rule 5: Notification of Meetings**

India is of the view that a minimum notice period of 60 days should be provided by the secretariat to all Parties prior to convening an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Such a requirement is essential to ensure adequate preparation and effective participation of all Parties, particularly developing countries.

## **IV. Agenda**

### **Rule 9: Preparation of the provisional agenda**

India supports the formulation that the President, after consulting with the Bureau, shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting.

In addition, India wishes to stress that the inclusion of an express reference to Article 6 of the BBNJ Agreement is of critical importance. Article 6 enshrines the guiding principles and approaches which underpin the implementation of all provisions of the

Agreement. Accordingly, India is of the view that the rules under consideration should explicitly state that they shall be consistent with Article 6, thereby ensuring that the operational modalities remain faithful to the principles prescribed under the Agreement. This would avoid the risk that operational modalities do not dilute or circumvent these foundational principles.

#### **Rule 10 : Items on the provisional agenda of ordinary meetings**

India, aligning with other developing countries, proposes the deletion of paragraph 10 (f), which refers to “items arising from, and reports on, consultations held with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies pursuant to rule [8 bis].” India considers that the inclusion of such language risks creating duplication, potential overlaps, and an unnecessary expansion of the agenda, which may detract from the effective focus of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

India looks forward to provide further comments and textual suggestions as negotiations progress on the remaining paragraphs of the text.

**Thank you.**