

Intervention by the Maldives delegation at the BBNJ PrepCom2 on the Subsidiary bodies

18 August 2025

Thank you, Co-chair,

The Maldives aligns with the statements delivered by the Group of 77 and China and AOSIS. We would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity. As highlighted by AOSIS, the Maldives supports the SIDS participation including the seats in all SBs.

We express our appreciation to the Co-Chairs and the Secretariat for the preparation of the Matrix on the terms of reference and modalities for the operation of, and rules of procedure for, the subsidiary bodies established under the Agreement

We are flexible on the structure of the ROP, whether it's a single document or multiple documents.

We noted in the earlier session there was a discussion on establishing a working group in subsidiary bodies. The Maldives feel that it's important to establish issue-specific or thematic permanent Working Groups under the Scientific and Technical Body. Given the direction of negotiation is towards a limited participation in the STB and given the enormous workload mandated under the agreement, such permanent working groups would enable more focused and in-depth discussions on complex scientific and technical matters, ensure thematic and workflow continuity, and facilitate the provision of systematic scientific advice to the COP – which may not be achievable with ad hoc working groups alone.

To guarantee that the work of the STB is grounded in robust, inclusive, and balanced debate, it is essential to draw upon the widest range of best available science, as well as the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Participation in these Working Groups should therefore be flexible and open, in line with both the spirit and the provisions of the Agreement. An inclusive and rigorous process will strengthen the credibility of the scientific processes and enhance the effective implementation of the BBNJ Agreement with broader acceptance among all stakeholders. The WG mechanism would allow to improve the cooperation and coordination with relevant IFBs.

We suggest adding the following text into the TOR of the STB:

The Scientific and Technical Body may, subject to the approval of the Conference of the Parties, establish permanent working groups, as appropriate, for the purpose of facilitating the work of the Scientific and Technical Body.

We also wish to express support for flexibility in determining the modality for meetings of SBs of limited size, including hybrid participation avenues, for this very reason.

On reporting requirements, a matter we wish to elaborate on further in subsequent discussions, we believe that subsidiary bodies should develop standardized reporting templates, to be endorsed by the COP. This might be one report, or multiple sections of various reports linked to the timelines of the various subsidiary bodies submitted to the clearing house mechanism. Such templates will ensure that the subsidiary bodies are equipped with the necessary and upto date information and data for informed decision-making.

I thank you.