



# PHILIPPINES

## STATEMENT

### SECOND PREPARATORY COMMISSION Delivered by Atty. Rosette Ferrer DENR

18 August 2025

**Excellencies, colleagues,**

Thank you, Co-Chairs. The Philippines associates itself with the G77 and China and is honored to deliver this statement in our national capacity.

We wish to express our firm support to the Co-Chairs and our gratitude to the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS), for the preparations for this Meeting and their valuable work as the Secretariat of the Agreement, including for the preparation of the revised aid.

The Philippines finds that elements in the document generally align with elements in initial guidance to GEF in other MEAs, particularly the CBD. The following elements are generally acceptable to this delegation: these are “guidance from the COP” and “conformity with guidance from the COP”. Other elements are broadly acceptable but may need further discussion. We also particularly support the inclusion of elements of periodic review, and determination of needs.

On the element of purpose, we wish to inquire on whether the paragraphs of the BBNJ Agreement that are enumerated are sufficient, and whether such enumeration is unnecessary and would be too limiting. For example, we note that par. 8 of Art. 52 of the BBNJ Agreement on public and private sources would also be applicable to the GEF. We highlight the importance of, in particular, for the COP to be informed of private sources. We note too the applicability of par. 12-13.

On the element of reporting, or determination of needs, our delegation recommends reporting on consideration of needs at each GEF replenishment. A similar provision in the CBD’s guidance to the GEF under Decision III/8 may be helpful. It reads: “On the

occasion of each replenishment, GEF will, in its regular report to the Conference of the Parties as provided for in paragraph 3 of this Memorandum of Understanding, indicate how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to the previous assessment by the Conference of the Parties prepared in accordance with paragraph 5.1 and inform the Conference of the Parties of the conclusion of replenishment negotiations." In relation to this, par. 12 of the BBNJ Agreement provides, "Eligibility for access to funding under this Agreement shall be open to developing States Parties on the basis of need."

Finally, take note of the insights presented by other groups on how we can work together towards an efficient implementation of the BBNJ Agreement with the support of the GEF.

Thank you. END.