



High Seas Alliance PrepCom 2 Interventions

Name of meeting: BBNJ PrepCom

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Speaker: High Seas Alliance

Intervention

Monday 25 August morning, Clearing-House Mechanism (CI-HM)

Thank you co-chairs.

High Seas Alliance thanks the co-chairs for the revised draft Terms of Reference of the Informal Group. In particular, we welcome the explicit reference to a minimum viable iteration of the CLHM to be ready by entry into force [in paragraph 2) a) i) or interim arrangements in paragraph 2) b ante)], so that Parties are able to fulfill their information sharing obligations from Day 1.

We note however that the timeline and sequencing envisioned in the revised Draft ToRs are still directed towards PrepCom3, which is scheduled 2-3 months after the likely entry into force in January 2026. To address this, we propose that in addition to the Draft Terms of Reference, PrepCom2 develop separate instructions for the interim Secretariat to put in place interim arrangements to cover this gap. We have previously outlined the basic functions that should be included in these interim arrangements.

Thank you

Some additional observations not delivered for the written submission:

With respect to a stock-taking exercise of existing CLHMs, we note that a number of comparative analyses of different CLHM-like mechanisms in different international arrangements have been undertaken, including the Information Note by the Secretariat from PrepCom1. If States consider an additional stock-taking decision necessary, **we support paragraph 2) a ante) alt)**, including the elements in the brackets, that would allow the group to get going while any additional research required could be undertaken in parallel on an issue by issue basis.

On the composition of the Informal Group, we continue to see advantages of a limited membership, but we have considered the very good point raised by Thailand during the previous CLHM session that **an open group approach may help save time on nomination & selection**. We agree with that assessment, and support an open group.

If States land on limited membership for composition, we strongly support the inclusion of paragraph 6 quater that Members will serve in their expert capacity, which is important for the group's legitimacy & credibility.

Lastly, **we support the modalities for reporting of minority opinions proposed in 14bis**, which we consider a good practice throughout aspects of the Agreement for fora that primarily focus on scientific and technical issues, including this Informal Group.

Thank you

