

PrepComm2

African Group statement on Reporting requirements

Delivered by Côte d'Ivoire – 22 August 2025

Dear Chair, distinguished delegates

The African Group aligns with G77 and China

The BBNJ Agreement includes several provisions on reporting obligations. These are designed to ensure transparency, compliance, information sharing and knowledge-exchange among Parties, through a structured system of periodic national reports, COP review, and public transparency through the clearing-house mechanism, with reporting obligations spanning across all four pillars of the treaty: MGRs, ABMTs/MPAs, EIAs, and capacity-building marine technology transfer.

This system of reporting is mainly composed of:

- Biennial Reports for MGRs / DSI to ensure transparency and data-sharing on how marine genetic resources are being accessed and managed, particularly important for the access and benefit sharing mechanism;
- National Implementation Reports to give COP visibility into how Parties are insuring the implementation of the treaty across all its focus areas as described above;
- Specific thematic reports such as the EIA Monitoring Reports to help ensure that environmental risks are tracked over time and managed effectively, including reports on the management measures being undertaken for the effective management of ABMTs including MPAs.
- Compliance mechanism which considers implementation challenges and helps strengthen adherence to obligations.

The AG would like to express its support to the suggestions made by delegations during prepcomm1 regarding the reporting requirements, particularly the inclusion of clear timelines for receiving submissions or reports in advance of COP, the inclusion of a procedure for submission to COP, joint reporting where necessary and the development of modalities for consultations with Parties and for the compilation, submission and publication of reports.

The AG understands the importance of reporting for the success of this treaty, However, for the AG, it is essential to further consider the following steps to reinforce the efficiency of the reporting process, especially for developing countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS:

- Establish clear intervals of reporting that ensure the implementation of the Agreement and modalities that align with the SBs reporting requirements;
- Ensure reporting templates are accessible and not unduly burdensome, and avoid undue rigor for developing countries;

- Adopt provisions for adequate and predictable funding particularly for Developing Countries;
 - Provide technical assistance to support countries in using difficult templates;
 - Make provision to help develop the reporting templates required under each SBs in response to the requirements of the treaty;
 - Ensure as far as possible, reporting templates across SBs are harmonized and aligned with their reporting intervals of these SBs.
- In conclusion, the AG reiterates its commitment to supporting the reporting requirements of the BBNJ Agreement. Including the suggested steps and the specific needs of developing countries will in our view ensure an efficient, transparent, and effective reporting process and will ultimately contribute to the success of the treaty and the sustainable use of marine resources.

I Thank you.