



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
(CARICOM)**

**DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY
COMMISSION FOR THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE BBNJ
AGREEMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF
THE SECRETARIAT INCLUDING ITS SEAT**

28 August 2025

CARICOM intervention on Secretariat arrangements

Thank you Chair. I have the honour to deliver this intervention on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Having heard the views last Friday on the institutional linkages to the UN, CARICOM would like to make some further comments.

CARICOM has consistently advocated that the BBNJ Agreement is a prime opportunity to create a bespoke Secretariat with the experience gained from other MEAs. With any new undertaking, it is difficult to ascertain exactly what final form it will take without guidance from our counterparty on what is actually feasible to implement.

Therefore, CARICOM proposes that the Co-Chairs request an analysis on the proposals made during the PrepCom on the institutional linkages to the UN. It could include similar questions such as:

1. What is the effect on the international legal personality and operational independence of the Secretariat if the Head is appointed by the SG as opposed to elected by the COP
2. What extent would the application of the UN Staff rules have on the independence of the Head on hiring decisions and administration
3. What level of financial independence affects the automatic application of the UN financial rules and oversight, including responsibilities of the UN Audit Board.
4. How would operational independence affect the linkages to other UN organs and programmes, including access to conference services, document services, and administrative support.

Also bearing in mind other questions, proposals and discussions to date during the PrepCom.

Such a request was also made to help determine the institutional framework for UNFCCC which for reference is contained in document A/AC.237/79/Add.1, and we believe it is appropriate to do the same.

CARICOM believes that there is sufficient time for the analysis to be considered by the Co-Chairs intersessionally, with an opportunity for the Co-Chairs to reply or seek further clarification. Similarly to what we referenced with regard to UNFCCC, the conclusions could then be considered at PrepCom 3 together with two alternative draft decisions for our consideration.