

EU and its MS – written input to inform the work of the consultancy on the technical aspects of the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism under the BBNJ Agreement

- The EU and its MS welcome the launch of the consultancy for the Study on the technical aspects of the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) under the BBNJ Agreement, and we are looking forward to considering its outcomes. The work to be undertaken by the consultant reflect the incremental approach widely supported, including by the EU and its Member States.
- We strongly believe in a user-friendly system to achieve transparency in view of the objective of the Agreement.
- We welcome the planned virtual meetings, to be convened to present progress on the preparation of the draft study and to facilitate exchange of views among delegations to the Preparatory Commission, and welcome the planned work by correspondence, whereby delegations will be invited to provide written input and comments on the draft study;
- We support the in-person consultation on the draft study, that will be held in conjunction with the third session of the Preparatory Commission;
- We appreciate the starting point of the consultancy from the preparation of a stock-take study of existing clearing-house mechanisms and information sharing platforms: this is a fundamental element and an essential step to ensure that lessons learned are fully captured and that efforts build on, rather than duplicate, existing initiatives. The Secretariat and the co-chairs might consider asking to the relevant MEAs Secretariat that are using a clearing house mechanism to provide a technical note detailing the key elements and conditions required for their effective functioning and their own experience.
- The EU and its MS support the development by the study of technical design requirements, and especially the targeted automatic alert system to all Parties for cases of notifications.
- As for the generation and use of the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier to operationalize the relevant provisions of Part II of the Agreement, a consultancy financed by the EU is organising a workshop in Leuven (Belgium) on December 3 and 4 with experts on the relevant fields. Outcomes of the workshop will be shared with the Secretariat and the co-chairs.
- The EU and its MS support the work of the consultant into achieving safeguards for the management of confidential information: the work should provide for recommendations on how to ensure confidentiality of all data/information and of the platform itself; as well as the direction to enable interoperability with

clearing-house mechanisms and databases of other relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies, including at the subregional level .

- We also support the drafting of a workplan for the initial phase for the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism, identifying specific activities, outputs and resources requirements. The Agreement will enter into force on 17 January 2026. Some basic functions of the CHM would need to be in place already by then. The EU and its MS believe that the BBNJ Agreement is clear on the features that need to be in place from day 1, and they should be:
 1. The possibility for the CHM to receive pre-collection notifications in a way that ensure accessibility to all Parties, including a prototype for the automatic alert to all Parties.
 2. The necessary technical requirement to issue the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier.
 3. The possibility for the CHM to receive public notifications of planned activities and notifications throughout the consultation process for EIAs in a way that ensure accessibility to all Parties.
- We appreciate that the Consultant may identify and engage with any necessary external expertise, information sources or technical input, and the EU and its MS stand ready to assist the co-chairs and the Secretariat in any way needed, including facilitating contacts with experts in the fields.