

November 26, 2025

Attn: Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations

On behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, I would like to submit the following written input to inform the work of the consultancy on a study to be completed by the third session of the BBNJ Preparatory Commission on the technical aspects of the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CI-HM) under the supervision of the Division.

According to article 51, paragraph 3(a)(ii) of the BBNJ Agreement, the CI-HM serves as “a centralized platform to enable Parties to access, provide and disseminate information with respect to activities” carried out under the Agreement, including information relating to ABMTs.

While not explicitly mentioned in the consultancy Terms of Reference it is important for this study be inclusive of and provide options for Part III of the BBNJ Agreement related to the establishment of area-based management tools (ABMTs), including marine protected areas (MPAs). There are several functions the CI-HM could support, including, but not limited to the publicity and preliminary review of proposals (Art 20), consultations on and assessment of proposals (Art 21), emergency measures (Art 24) and monitoring and review (Art 26).

For example, Article 20 requires the Secretariat to make the ABMT proposal publicly available upon receipt and then transmit it to the Scientific and Technical Body (STB) for a preliminary review. Comparable tasks are assigned to the CI-HM under other parts of the Agreement (e.g. Art 28.2, 33.3, 33.5).

The role of the CI-HM with respect to ABMT modalities and technical needs could also include managing information exchange and input related to cooperation and collaboration with other instruments, frameworks and bodies.

We appreciate the opportunity to input and look forward to supporting the continued progress of this important work. Please let us know if any additional information would be useful.

Sincerely,



Liz Karan
Director, Ocean Governance
The Pew Charitable Trusts