



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 February 2025

Original: English

**Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of
the Agreement under the United Nations Convention
on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and
Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of
Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the
Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of
the Parties to the Agreement**

First session

New York, 14–25 April 2025

**Issues pertaining to the operation of the Clearing-House
Mechanism under the Agreement under the United Nations
Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and
Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas
beyond National Jurisdiction**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (“the Agreement”), in its article 51, establishes a Clearing-House Mechanism and outlines its various functions. In addition, provisions related to the functions of the Mechanism are found in other parts of the Agreement, including parts II, IV and V. The Agreement also provides that the Mechanism is to be managed by the secretariat established under the Agreement.

2. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, the specific modalities for the operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism are to be determined by the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement.

3. By its resolution [78/272](#), the General Assembly decided to establish a preparatory commission to prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement and to prepare for the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement (“Preparatory Commission”). Pursuant to article 47, paragraph 2, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties is to take place no later than one year after the entry into force of the Agreement. As mandated in resolution [78/272](#), the Commission held a three-day organizational meeting, from 24 to 26 June 2024. At



that meeting, the Commission decided, among other things, to request the Co-Chairs, in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare a provisional programme of work for the Commission on the basis of the clusters of issues discussed during the organizational meeting, which include matters to be addressed by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, as expressly set out in the Agreement, and additional matters identified during the organizational meeting that may be addressed at an early stage by the Conference of the Parties.¹ One of these clusters addresses issues pertaining to the operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism, including the modalities for its operation, such as: (a) the type, architecture and functionalities of the platform; (b) the process for generating the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier; (c) modalities to facilitate the matching of capacity-building needs with the support available and with providers for the transfer of marine technology, and to facilitate access to related know-how and expertise; and (d) terms of cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies.

4. As requested by the Preparatory Commission at its organizational meeting, the Co-Chairs, in consultation with the Bureau, prepared the provisional programme of work of the Commission and, also in consultation with the Bureau and with the support of the Secretariat, identified the required documentation for the first and second sessions of the Commission, which includes the present note by the Secretariat on issues pertaining to the operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism.

5. The preparation of the present note was informed by an expert consultancy contracted by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat.

6. The note addresses general considerations relating to the type, architecture and functionalities of the platform (section II), considerations relating to specific functions of the Clearing-House Mechanism (section III) and other considerations relating to the operationalization of the Mechanism (section IV). The processes for operationalizing existing clearing-house mechanisms are not covered by the note. In general, the practices on such processes seem to vary, depending on the governance structure, priorities and institutional practices of the respective instruments, frameworks and bodies. However, many appear to have gone through a pilot phase (see paragraph 97).

7. The purpose of the note is to provide the Preparatory Commission with a broad overview of relevant considerations for the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism, encompassing both policy-related and technical considerations. The Commission may first determine which issues to address, which to defer to the Conference of the Parties and which to set aside. For the issues it chooses to address, the Commission may decide which matters it will develop recommendations on directly and which it will delegate to mechanisms such as expert groups. In this context, the note concludes with a set of possible actions that the Commission may consider taking in the period leading up to the entry into force of the Agreement and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (section V).

8. The considerations and possible actions outlined in the present note are not exhaustive and do not preclude other considerations and possible actions that are not mentioned in the note.

¹ A/AC.296/2024/4, annex.

II. General considerations relating to the type, architecture and functionalities of the platform

9. In the context of other instruments, frameworks and bodies, a clearing-house mechanism usually refers to a centralized infrastructure, and associated practices, that facilitate the digital exchange of information among diverse stakeholders. Unlike information-sharing mechanisms that primarily focus on disseminating information, a clearing-house mechanism enables a broader set of users to directly register and access information through standardized protocols and interfaces.

10. Among other functions outlined in article 51, paragraph 3, and other provisions of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to, pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (a), serve as a centralized platform to enable Parties to access, provide and disseminate information with respect to activities taking place pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement. Considerations relating to the specific functions of the Mechanism are addressed in section III below. Given these functions, the Mechanism will likely need to accommodate a large and diverse range of users contributing and retrieving information directly. In this regard, several considerations relating to the type, architecture and functionalities of the Mechanism are identified in the present section, drawing upon the practices of existing clearing-house mechanisms and databases.²

² The following clearing-house mechanisms and other information-sharing mechanisms with similar or comparable functions have been considered, among others: the Ocean Biodiversity Information System of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (<https://obis.org>); the ISA Deep Seabed and Ocean Database (DeepData) of the International Seabed Authority (<https://www.isa.org.jm/deepdata-database>); the Global Integrated Shipping Information System of the International Maritime Organization (<https://gisis.imo.org/Public/Default.aspx>); the FishInfo portal of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (<https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/fishinfo>); the Global Information System of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (<https://glis.fao.org/glis>); the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (<https://chm.cbd.int>); the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (<https://absch.cbd.int>); the Biosafety Clearing-House of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (<https://bch.cbd.int>); the CITES Trade Database (<https://trade.cites.org>), CITES Wildlife TradeView (<https://traderview.cites.org>), eCITES (<https://cites.org/eng/prog/eCITES>) and Species+ (<https://www.speciesplus.net>) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Global Climate Action Portal (<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/tracking-and-recognition/global-climate-action-portal>) and the UNFCCC Capacity-building Portal (<https://unfccc.int/cbportal>) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the data and knowledge resources of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (<https://www.unccd.int/data-knowledge>); the joint clearing-house mechanism of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (<https://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/KnowledgeManagementandOutreach/Clearinghousemechanism/tabid/5382/language/en-US/Default.aspx>); the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (<https://www.informeia.org>); the IWC Database Portal of the International Whaling Commission (<https://portal.iwc.int>); the Clearinghouse Mechanism of the Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (<https://www.nairobiconvention.org/clearinghouse>); and the CLME+ Hub for the Wider Caribbean (<https://clmeplus.org>).

User management

11. Ensuring the credibility and integrity of the information within the Clearing-House Mechanism requires clearly defined user roles and responsibilities. Key considerations in this regard include determining which users are authorized to enter or access specific categories of information, the procedures for verifying user identities and, where necessary, the process for validating information entered by certain users. Addressing these issues may involve distinguishing between users representing the secretariat, the designated authorities of Parties, users that are members of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties, users representing relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies, and the general public. If the general public is authorized to enter certain categories of information, it may be important to consider whether, and, if so, how, the information that they enter should be validated.

12. Additionally, for certain functions of the Clearing-House Mechanism, further consideration may be given to linking a general public user to relevant Parties. For example, if a natural or juridical person is authorized to enter information on their activities with respect to marine genetic resources, procedures may be required to identify the Party or Parties under whose jurisdiction they fall.

13. If validation is required for certain information entered by specific user groups, further considerations may include the question of whether such validation should be automated, manual, or a combination of both, as well as the allocation of responsibilities for such validation.

User-friendly interface and multilingual accessibility

14. An intuitive and easy-to-use platform will be essential for ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Clearing-House Mechanism, given its potentially diverse and ever-evolving user base. In this regard, consideration may be given to designing an interface that is well-organized and easy to navigate. Using straightforward language and step-by-step guidance could also help ensure that all users, regardless of their technical background or expertise, can use the platform effectively.

15. Furthermore, it may be important to determine the languages in which the Clearing-House Mechanism should be available. If multilingual access is needed, measures to streamline translation processes, ensure consistency across language versions and prevent discrepancies could be considered. These could include integrating a multilingual content management system.

Registration of information

16. The Clearing-House Mechanism will manage different types of information from various users, with potential connections among related information and data. To structure and manage information effectively, a structured database system may be considered, in which information would be categorized and entered using predefined formats with mandatory and optional data fields. To enhance consistency and searchability, particularly across multiple languages, prioritizing the use of predefined keyword lists over free-text fields could be considered, while allowing users to add new terms as needed. The possibility of leveraging advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence, in information registration may also be explored.

17. Additionally, consideration may be given to minimizing data duplication by linking related information and data. For example, when registering information on “the sponsoring institution(s) and the person in charge of a project” in relation to an activity with respect to marine genetic resources, users may be prompted by the

system to link to an existing record for the institution or person, or to create a new record before linking it to the activity, instead of entering the same data multiple times. To this end, it may be useful to consider providing users with guidance on the correct sequence for completing related records. It may also be useful to consider offering downloadable templates so that users can prepare information offline before entering it into the platform.

Retrieval of information

18. Effective search functionalities are crucial for efficiently finding information. Existing clearing-house mechanisms typically use an interface similar to Internet search engines, with a single search box complemented by advanced filters and sorting tools to refine search results. It is also common to display the most recent records alongside filtering options, giving users an overview of newly registered information. To enhance usability, additional features may include customizable display settings, shareable links, export options in various formats and the ability to save searches. Consideration may be given to determining which search features the Mechanism should incorporate.

19. As the search page is often the most visited section of the platform of a clearing-house mechanism, it should be easily accessible from the home page and main menu. Distinguishing between how information is stored and accessed versus how it is retrieved in searches may also be considered. While registered information may be available in multiple languages and use different original terms, search functions should primarily rely on standardized terms and metadata (descriptive information about the data)³ to ensure consistency. Additionally, the potential role of artificial intelligence in enhancing search efficiency may be explored.

Alert system

20. An active alert system in the Clearing-House Mechanism could help users stay informed about relevant updates and newly registered information. Alerts might range from public alerts triggered by the registration of a record, such as the public notification of a planned activity under article 32, paragraph 1, of the Agreement, to periodic updates alerting users to new records that match their predefined search criteria or general updates relating to the Mechanism. Targeted alerts may also be issued for specific user groups or the secretariat to facilitate timely and relevant communication. Consideration may be given to the types of alerts to be implemented, the conditions that would trigger them, their frequency and target audience, user customization options and technical measures to ensure their accuracy and timely delivery. It may be useful to also consider the most effective ways to deliver alerts, such as through the Clearing-House Mechanism platform, system-generated emails or a combination of the two.

Data quality assurance and version control

21. Maintaining the accuracy, reliability and relevance of information in the Clearing-House Mechanism may require robust measures to ensure data quality and manage updates. This may include checking data at different stages, including through automated tools that flag missing or inconsistent details, regular reviews to remove outdated or duplicative information and expert review procedures for certain types of information.

³ Throughout the document, explanations in parentheses are intended to aid in understanding the relevant term, not to serve as a definition.

22. Further consideration may be given to managing archived and outdated information to ensure transparency and support reporting and analysis. This may include labelling record statuses, creating a searchable archive and setting rules for restricting access when necessary. Implementing a version control system (a tool that tracks changes to records and ensures users can access previous versions) and audit trails (records of all modifications made to pieces of information, showing who made the changes and when) may be considered. The alert system might also help improve data quality by reminding users to review or update records they have generated.

Data security, privacy and confidentiality

23. Ensuring data security is essential to maintaining the integrity and reliability of information in the Clearing-House Mechanism. While much of the information may be openly accessible, certain data, such as user credentials (login details used to verify the identity of a user) and personal information, would require restricted access. It will be necessary to consider measures to prevent unauthorized access, modification or disclosure, as well as data backup protocols that regularly save copies of data to prevent loss due to cyberthreats, technical failures or natural disasters. Additionally, consideration will need to be given to establishing policies and standards on data protection and privacy for the Mechanism. Furthermore, it may be useful to consider ensuring that the Mechanism is compatible with and supportive of data sovereignty that is subject to national policies and legislation.

24. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 6, of the Agreement, the confidentiality of information provided under the Agreement and rights thereto are to be respected, and nothing under the Agreement is to be interpreted as requiring the sharing of information that is protected from disclosure under the domestic law of a Party or other applicable law. In this regard, consideration may be given to whether users may be given the ability to designate certain information as confidential and to establishing mechanisms for handling and sharing such information while ensuring appropriate safeguards.

Knowledge management and user support

25. Given the complexity and evolving nature of the Clearing-House Mechanism, along with the potential turnover of its user base, effective knowledge management is essential for ensuring effective user engagement with the platform. Consideration may be given to providing regularly updated tutorials and ad hoc training activities to help new users familiarize themselves with the functionalities of the platform. Drawing on the practices of existing clearing-house mechanisms, it may be useful to explore the possibility of offering dedicated training sites that replicate the system of the Mechanism, allowing users to explore features and practice using them in a simulated environment.

26. Beyond training, ongoing user support could further strengthen knowledge-sharing and engagement. Consideration may be given to features such as a multilingual online forum to facilitate collaborative learning, problem-solving and knowledge exchange among users. Additionally, a dedicated direct messaging system could facilitate direct and timely interaction with the secretariat, enabling users to seek assistance and report issues in real time. These interactive features would not only enhance troubleshooting but also promote a more connected and engaged user community.

Sustainability and scalability

27. To ensure that the Clearing-House Mechanism remains sustainable and scalable over time, a key consideration will be balancing the sophistication of the system with

its resource implications, which are discussed further in section IV.D. While a highly advanced system with comprehensive features is possible, it would require significant financial, technical and human resources, potentially posing challenges to the long-term functionality of the Mechanism and its ability to expand and adapt as needed.

28. In this regard, consideration may be given to adopting an incremental approach, as discussed further in section IV.E, which would allow for the gradual expansion of features, rather than attempting to implement a fully developed system from the outset. This approach may help optimize resource allocation, ensure long-term feasibility and enable the platform to evolve based on user needs and available funding. For example, in an initial phase, it may be useful to consider prioritizing core functionalities such as information registration, search tools and user authentication, with additional features being introduced over time, in line with demand and the available resources.

III. Considerations relating to specific functions of the Clearing-House Mechanism

29. The Clearing-House Mechanism will perform various functions, as outlined in article 51, paragraph 3, and other relevant provisions of the Agreement, including those in its parts II, IV and V. This section identifies considerations relating to the performance by the Mechanism of these specific functions.

A. Serving as a centralized platform to enable Parties to access, provide and disseminate information

30. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (a), of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to serve as a centralized platform to enable Parties to access, provide and disseminate information with respect to activities taking place pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement. This includes information relating to the four key elements of the Agreement, as outlined in article 51, paragraphs 3 (a) (i) to 3 (a) (iv), as well as relevant provisions in other parts of the Agreement. Additionally, this may include information specified in article 51, paragraph 3 (e) and other information that is relevant to cross-cutting issues or to multiple elements of the Agreement, such as geospatial data and information.

Information relating to marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction

31. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (a) (i), of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to serve as a centralized platform for accessing, providing and disseminating information relating to marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction, as set out in part II of the Agreement. Article 12 specifies the information that must be notified to the Mechanism, at various stages, on activities with respect to marine genetic resources and digital sequence information on marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including prior to collection in situ, after collection in situ and at the utilization stage. Certain conditions may apply to such requirements, including current international practice, practicability, availability and reasonableness, as applicable. Additionally, article 15, paragraph 4, further requires that each Party make available to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Committee, through the Mechanism, the information required under the Agreement, including legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, as well as contact details and other relevant information on national focal points.

32. To operationalize these functions, consideration may be given to determining who is authorized to register information, particularly for notifications concerning activities with respect to marine genetic resources and digital sequence information, and to establishing standardized formats for each category of information. This includes defining mandatory and optional data fields for each format, as well as predefined keyword lists to enhance consistency and searchability. It may be useful to also consider applicable standards and protocols for each format, such as taxonomy classification systems for identifying marine genetic resources, which are crucial for ensuring data findability and interoperability with other databases. Additionally, the integration of the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers into various formats may be considered to facilitate the locating and linking of information associated with the same identifier.

33. Furthermore, consideration may be given to whether notifications at different stages relating to the same collection in situ should be structured as a single, continuously updated record, or as separate records linked through the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers. Another issue to consider is how notifications relating to the utilization of marine genetic resources collected prior to the entry into force of the Agreement should be structured, as these would lack pre-collection notifications and the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers. Additionally, it may be relevant to assess whether, in cases of material changes to the information provided in pre-collection notifications, the updated information being notified to the Clearing-House Mechanism pursuant to article 12, paragraph 4, should be registered as a new record linked to the original record or, rather, incorporated as an update within the original record.

34. Consideration may also be given to whether the Clearing-House Mechanism should play a role in receiving and making available periodic reports to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Committee. Such reports include the biennial reports by repositories and databases on access to marine genetic resources and digital sequence information linked to their “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier, as set out in article 12, paragraph 7, as well as the periodic reports by Parties on their implementation of the provisions in part II of the Agreement, as set out in article 16, paragraph 2.

Information relating to area-based management tools, including marine protected areas

35. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (a) (ii), of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to serve as a centralized platform for accessing, providing and disseminating information on the establishment and implementation of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas. However, part III of the Agreement does not specify when or how the Mechanism would perform this function.

36. In this regard, the role of the Clearing-House Mechanism in relation to area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, will need to be clarified, particularly regarding its role in supporting the Conference of the Parties, the Scientific and Technical Body and the secretariat in implementing the relevant provisions of the Agreement. Its role may include supporting collaboration and consultations on the development of proposals for such areas, receiving proposals and making them publicly available, receiving input during consultations on such proposals and during consultations to enhance cooperation and coordination with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies, making decisions of the Conference of the Parties and objections thereto publicly available, receiving and making publicly available reports and information on the implementation of area-based management

tools, including marine protected areas, and providing other general information on such tools.

37. Depending on the role of the Clearing-House Mechanism, further considerations may include defining the type and scope of information to be provided, establishing standardized formats for different types of information, and determining how relevant records should be linked. Additionally, consideration may be given to ensuring interoperability between the Mechanism and other clearing-house mechanisms and databases relating to area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, including by aligning data standards (technical specifications that define how data should be structured, formatted and exchanged across different systems) and metadata protocols (technical specifications that define how metadata should be communicated, shared and processed between different systems).

38. Additional considerations may arise if the Clearing-House Mechanism is to play specific roles in certain aspects. For example, if the Mechanism is to receive revised proposals and responses to substantive contributions not reflected in the proposal under article 21, paragraph 5, consideration may be given to establishing a system for tracking and displaying changes over time, to ensure transparency and traceability of revisions. If the Mechanism is to receive reports and information on the implementation of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, attention may be directed to ensuring user-friendly navigation, effective categorization and clear organization of such reports and information based on relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in order to enhance accessibility and searchability.

Information relating to environmental impact assessments

39. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (a) (iii), of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to serve as a centralized platform for accessing, providing and disseminating information relating to environmental impact assessments. Part IV of the Agreement contains various provisions specifying the functions of the Mechanism in this regard, which include receiving and making available information and reports on assessments conducted under a Party's national process (article 28, paragraph 2 (a) and (c)); publishing reports on assessments conducted under relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies (article 29, paragraphs 5 and 6); making relevant information on screening publicly available (article 31, paragraph 1 (a) (i)); making publicly available the views registered by Parties on the potential impacts of a planned activity and recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Body (article 31, paragraph 1 (a) (vi)); publishing public notifications of planned activities (article 32, paragraph 1); making draft assessment reports available during the public consultation process and publishing assessment reports (article 33, paragraphs 3 and 5); making decision documents on planned activities public (article 34, paragraph 3); making monitoring reports public (article 36, paragraph 2); publishing notifications of significant adverse impacts of authorized activities (article 37, paragraph 2); making publicly available concerns registered by Parties that the authorized activity may have significant adverse impacts, any notifications issued and any recommendations by the Scientific and Technical Body (article 37, paragraph 4(d)); keeping States and stakeholders informed in the monitoring, reporting and review processes (article 37, paragraph 5); and publishing reports on the review of the impacts of authorized activities and decision documents on changes to authorization decisions (article 37, paragraph 6 (b)).

40. To operationalize these functions, consideration may be given to defining the formats for records relating to environmental impact assessments in the Clearing-House Mechanism. This includes determining the number of distinct formats required, defining the mandatory and optional data fields for each format and establishing predefined keyword lists. In this regard, the starting points for

developing any required formats may vary. For example, article 33, paragraph 2, sets out the minimum requirements for information to be included in environmental impact assessment reports, providing a basis for structuring a possible format for publishing assessment reports. Conversely, the Agreement does not specify, for example, what information is required for the notification of a planned activity, which would require further clarification.

41. Furthermore, it may be useful to consider structuring and linking records on environmental impact assessments in a way that enhances accessibility. This may involve integrating tags and keywords to improve searchability, linking records across different stages of environmental impact assessment processes, and organizing information to support filtering and sorting by relevant criteria. Additionally, aligning data standards and metadata protocols to ensure interoperability with other clearing-house mechanisms and databases may also be considered.

42. Consideration may also be given to the role of the Clearing-House Mechanism in receiving and making publicly available substantive comments and responses during the consultation process under article 32, paragraph 5; in receiving, where a planned activity affects areas of the high seas that are entirely surrounded by the exclusive economic zones of States, the views and comments of the surrounding States and responses by Parties under article 32, paragraph 6; and in receiving the responses to concerns registered by Parties on the potential impacts of a planned activity and to concerns registered by Parties that an authorized activity may have significant adverse impacts under article 31, paragraph 1 (a) (iv), and article 37, paragraph 4 (c). Additionally, the role of the Mechanism in supporting the conduct of strategic environmental assessments may be explored.

Information relating to capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology

43. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (a) (iv), of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to serve as a centralized platform for accessing, providing and disseminating information relating to requests for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology and opportunities with respect thereto, including research collaboration and training opportunities, information on sources and availability of technological information and data for the transfer of marine technology, opportunities for facilitated access to marine technology and the availability of funding.

44. Consideration may be given to determining the appropriate formats for structuring records, including whether a single or separate format should be used for requests and opportunities. Additionally, the extent to which data fields and predefined keyword lists should be aligned with the indicative and non-exhaustive list of types of capacity-building and of the transfer of marine technology in Annex II to the Agreement may be considered. Should such alignment be pursued, it may be useful to also consider how to accommodate updates, given that the Conference of the Parties may periodically review, assess, further develop and provide guidance on this list, pursuant to article 44, paragraph 3, while maintaining data compatibility and ensuring the long-term usability of new and existing records. Furthermore, it may be relevant to assess the need for advanced filtering and faceted search mechanisms to allow users to refine searches based on specific criteria, such as type, geographic scope, language, time period and funding status. Consideration may also be given to ensuring interoperability with other clearing-house mechanisms and databases, including through the alignment of data standards and metadata protocols.

45. Furthermore, consideration may be given to the role of the Clearing-House Mechanism in receiving and making publicly available reports submitted by Parties to the Capacity-Building and Transfer of Marine Technology Committee, as well as

input from regional and subregional bodies on capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology under article 45, paragraph 3. It may be useful to also consider the linkage, if any, between the records on capacity-building and transfer of marine technology requests and opportunities and other functions of the Mechanism, such as facilitating the matching of capacity-building needs with the support available and with providers for the transfer of marine technology, facilitating access to related know-how and expertise and facilitating assessments of the needs and priorities of developing States Parties.

Information relating to multiple elements of the Agreement or to cross-cutting issues

46. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (e), of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to foster enhanced transparency, including by facilitating the sharing of environmental baseline data and information relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction between Parties and other relevant stakeholders. Consideration may be given to defining the scope of “environmental baselines data”, including key parameters such as oceanographic, geological, biological and ecological data, clarifying what other types of information relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction should be shared, and determining the appropriate frequency for updating such data and information. In this regard, the possibility of establishing a virtual library to provide access to publications, scientific articles, reports and other relevant materials, including by providing links to existing resources, may be explored.

47. Further consideration may be given to establishing standardized formats, applicable data standards and metadata protocols. Additionally, it may be useful to consider facilitating automated data imports from trusted sources and enabling the use of application programming interfaces (APIs) (sets of rules and protocols that enable different systems to communicate and share data) to enhance data exchange and interoperability with other clearing-house mechanisms and databases at the global, regional and national levels.

48. Additionally, consideration may be given to the role of the Clearing-House Mechanism in facilitating the sharing of information relating to cross-cutting issues, such as in publishing and maintaining a public record of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties under article 48, paragraph 2, and in receiving reports submitted by Parties to the Conference of the Parties on measures taken to implement the Agreement under article 54.

49. It may be useful to consider the management of geospatial data and information, which is relevant to the functions of the Clearing-House Mechanism across all elements of the Agreement. This may involve selecting a well-structured, cost-effective and integrated geospatial information management system and determining how this system would be hosted and managed, including whether the system would be managed in-house or through partnership and whether the hosting of the geospatial data and information would be centralized or decentralized. Consideration may also be given to supporting both vector data (a type of data represented using points, lines and polygons) and raster data (a type of data represented using a grid of pixels) formats.

50. Additionally, consideration may be given to establishing protocols for handling geospatial data and information that are sensitive or related to disputes. It may also be useful to provide resources for training users with limited geographic information management expertise and enhance system performance for processing large-scale geospatial datasets.

B. Process for generating the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier⁴

51. Pursuant to article 12, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to automatically generate a “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier upon notification prior to the collection in situ of marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction. These “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers will subsequently be included in notifications after collection in situ, as set out in article 12, paragraph 5, and at the stage of utilization, as set out in article 12, paragraph 8.

52. In accordance with article 14, paragraph 2 (d), non-monetary benefits are to be shared in the form of, *inter alia*, information contained in the notifications, along with “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers, in publicly searchable and accessible forms. In this regard, Parties are required to take the necessary legislative, administrative or policy measures to ensure that marine genetic resources and digital sequence information subject to utilization by natural or juridical persons under their jurisdiction are deposited in publicly accessible repositories and databases together with their “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier, as set out in article 14, paragraph 3.

53. Furthermore, pursuant to article 16, paragraph 1, the use of “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers serves as a means through which monitoring and transparency of activities with respect to marine genetic resources and digital sequence information will be achieved. In this regard, Parties are required, under article 12, paragraph 7, to ensure that repositories, to the extent practicable, and databases under their jurisdiction prepare a biennial aggregate report on access to marine genetic resources and digital sequence information linked to their “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier, and make the report available to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Committee.

54. Operationalizing this process and enabling the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers to perform their intended functions effectively requires consideration of various aspects, including their generation mechanisms, structure and format, compatibility and interoperability, accessibility and searchability, and lifecycle management.

Generation mechanisms

55. It may be necessary to determine whether the completeness of information being registered for a pre-collection notification should be verified before a “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier is generated, or whether an identifier should be generated immediately upon submission of information for a pre-collection notification, regardless of whether all information required under article 12, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, has been provided, with possible verification and corrections being carried out afterward. Verification beforehand could help ensure data integrity but may cause delays in some cases, in particular when manual verification is needed, while immediate generation would streamline the process but risk having identifiers generated even if the information in the pre-collection notification is incomplete. Given that the identifiers are to be automatically generated, under article 12, paragraph 3, it will be important for any verification process to prioritize automated methods, while also establishing criteria for when manual verification may be required.

⁴ This issue is addressed separately in the present note as it requires different functionalities and involves distinct technical considerations beyond those relating to the function of the Clearing-House Mechanism for accessing, providing and disseminating information on activities with respect to marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction and digital sequence information.

Structure and format

56. The structure and format of the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers may be considered, taking into account the need to ensure uniqueness and scalability. In this regard, an issue for consideration is whether the identifiers should be numeric, alphanumeric or structured according to a specific coding scheme, bearing in mind the need for them to be easy to read for both people and machines and resistant to duplication. Additionally, it may be useful to explore the key components of the identifiers, including what information they should contain and whether an extra digit should be incorporated to help detect errors.

Compatibility and interoperability

57. Consideration may be given to ensuring the compatibility and interoperability of the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers with relevant repositories and databases, including by determining applicable data standards. It may be useful to explore whether standardized APIs and data exchange protocols should be developed to facilitate seamless integration and information exchange. Furthermore, the development of guidelines for repositories and databases to incorporate identifiers into their workflows may be considered.

Accessibility and searchability

58. Ensuring that the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers and their associated information are easily accessible and searchable could be an important consideration. This may require interlinking all relevant data associated with a given identifier, including by incorporating identifiers into all relevant formats used for registering and managing information. Consideration may also be given to establishing a centralized system within the Clearing-House Mechanism to aggregate, organize and display all relevant data linked to a given identifier. In this regard, options such as persistent uniform resource locators (URLs) and quick response (QR) codes may be explored to enhance accessibility, including for use in mobile and offline environments.

Lifecycle management

59. It may be useful to consider the lifecycle management of the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifiers, particularly regarding whether, and under what circumstances, an identifier could be corrected, updated, cancelled or retired. If the identifier includes embedded information, any modifications to these elements could create inconsistencies, which raises the need for a clear protocol to manage such changes appropriately.

C. Modalities to facilitate the matching of capacity-building needs with the support available and with providers for the transfer of marine technology, and to facilitate access to related know-how and expertise

60. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (b), of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to facilitate the matching of capacity-building needs with the support available and with providers for the transfer of marine technology, including governmental, non-governmental or private entities interested in participating as donors in the transfer of marine technology, and facilitate access to related know-how and expertise. The operationalization of these functions requires consideration of how needs and support will be categorized and registered, how matching mechanisms will

function, how information will be reviewed and updated and how access to expertise will be facilitated.

Mapping of capacity-building needs, available support and providers for the transfer of marine technology

61. Consideration may be given to how capacity-building needs, available support and providers for the transfer of marine technology should be mapped, categorized and registered, including what information should be required and who should be authorized to register such information. In this regard, it may be useful to consider the role of the indicative and non-exhaustive list of types of capacity-building and of the transfer of marine technology in Annex II to the Agreement, including whether the list should serve as a reference framework for mapping.

62. Furthermore, consideration may be given to clarifying the linkages between capacity-building needs, available support and providers for the transfer of marine technology and the “requests for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology and opportunities with respect thereto” referenced in article 51, paragraph 3 (a) (iv), of the Agreement. Additionally, it may be useful to consider the relationship between capacity-building needs and the needs and priorities of developing States Parties identified through needs assessments conducted pursuant to article 42, paragraph 4, including such assessments which are facilitated by the Clearing-House Mechanism.

63. It may be useful to also consider the triggers for mapping capacity-building needs, available support and providers for the transfer of marine technology, including whether such mapping should occur periodically or, rather, reactively, in response to newly registered information. The possibility of establishing partnerships with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies, as well as other stakeholders, to carry out the mapping may also be explored.

Matching mechanism

64. Consideration may be given to the design of the matching mechanism, including whether the system should rely on automated, manual or hybrid approaches. An automated system could improve efficiency, scalability and real-time matching, while manual oversight may be necessary to validate matches, refine prioritization and address complex cases. A hybrid approach may combine automation for initial matches with manual review to ensure accuracy and flexibility where needed.

65. In this regard, it may be important to consider the key parameters for ensuring an effective and adaptable matching process. This may include defining matching criteria and, if applicable, developing automated tools to support the matching. The potential role of artificial intelligence and other digital tools could also be explored. Additionally, it may be useful to consider mechanisms for handling mismatches, refining matches over time and ensuring that the matching function remains flexible and responsive to evolving priorities and emerging needs.

66. Attention may also be directed to incorporating user-friendly search tools and interfaces that allow users to search entries based on specific criteria. Additionally, it may be useful to explore the implementation of an alert system to notify users when newly registered records match their needs or offers.

Data accuracy and system optimization

67. Consideration may be given to developing mechanisms for ensuring the accuracy, reliability and long-term relevance of registered information on capacity-building needs, available support and providers for the transfer of marine technology,

which may include data verification measures to prevent outdated or duplicative entries.

68. It may be useful to also consider establishing a framework for iterative system enhancements, including monitoring and review mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of matching. This could involve tracking system performance using predefined indicators, such as match success rates, geographic distribution and user engagement levels. Regular feedback from users, including both providers and recipients of capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, could provide insights into system usability and responsiveness, informing necessary improvements. Additionally, mechanisms for integrating new technologies and data-sharing protocols (technical specifications that define how data is transmitted, accessed and exchanged between different systems) may be explored to enhance interoperability with platforms relating to capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

Facilitating access to know-how and expertise

69. The scope of know-how and expertise to which the Clearing-House Mechanism will facilitate access, and the features supporting this function, may be considered. This could include the development and maintenance of a virtual library or knowledge repository where relevant know-how and expertise are compiled and regularly updated. Consideration may also be given to measures to identify and filter unauthorized, outdated or irrelevant materials. Furthermore, it may be useful to consider enhancing searchability and user navigation, as well as integrating interactive support tools such as online training modules, live consultations and knowledge-sharing forums to facilitate engagement and knowledge exchange.

D. Terms of cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies

70. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 4, of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to be managed by the secretariat, without prejudice to possible cooperation with other relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies as determined by the Conference of the Parties, including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Seabed Authority, the International Maritime Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

71. Furthermore, pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (c), the Clearing-House Mechanism is to provide links to relevant global, regional, subregional, national and sectoral clearing-house mechanisms and other gene banks, repositories and databases, including those pertaining to relevant traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It will also promote, where possible, links with publicly available private and non-governmental platforms for the exchange of information. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (d), the Mechanism is to build on global, regional and subregional clearing-house institutions, where applicable, when establishing regional and subregional mechanisms under the global mechanism.

72. To operationalize these provisions, issues for consideration include defining the scope and modalities of cooperation, clarifying legal and institutional arrangements, establishing data exchange mechanisms and developing a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of cooperation.

Scope and modalities of cooperation

73. Consideration may be given to determining the scope and areas of cooperation, including identifying which relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies the Clearing-House Mechanism would cooperate with, in which areas such cooperation would occur, and which clearing-house mechanisms, gene banks, repositories and databases the Mechanism would provide links to for cooperation. It may be useful to also consider the need to establish regional and subregional mechanisms under the global mechanism and, in that context, determine which global, regional and subregional clearing-house institutions could be built upon for the establishment of such mechanisms.

74. Further consideration may also be given to establishing formal or informal cooperation arrangements and clarifying roles, responsibilities and engagement mechanisms, including through memoranda of understanding or other arrangements. Arrangements for the regular assessment of synergies, overlaps and areas for enhanced coordination may be explored. Additionally, it may be useful to consider establishing a structured process for seeking guidance from the Conference of the Parties and the respective governing bodies of relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies in addressing institutional or technical issues.

Data exchange and governance

75. Mechanisms for ensuring interoperability and data integration between the Clearing-House Mechanism and other relevant platforms may be considered. This could involve developing shared data standards and metadata protocols to facilitate seamless data exchange, searchability and retrieval across platforms. Additionally, consideration may be given to developing open-access APIs to enable automated data exchange and integration with relevant platforms as determined by the Conference of the Parties. The potential participation of the Mechanism in broader data exchange initiatives may be explored.

76. Further consideration may be given to developing data-sharing policies (guidelines and rules that govern who can access, use and share data, under what conditions and for what purposes), including protocols for handling confidential, proprietary or sensitive data exchanged through cooperative arrangements. This could also include establishing clear governance structures to define roles and responsibilities for data management, outline procedures for updates and modifications, and ensure compliance with relevant data protection regulations and ethical standards.

Monitoring, evaluation and adaptation

77. Consideration may be given to establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the effectiveness of cooperation through performance indicators, such as data exchange volumes, user engagement rates and the resolution of technical issues. Additionally, it may be useful to consider establishing processes for regular feedback and periodic review to enable adaptations of cooperation arrangements in response to evolving needs, technological advancements and lessons learned.

E. Other functions of the Clearing-House Mechanism

78. In addition to the above-mentioned functions, the Agreement provides for the role of the Clearing-House Mechanism in facilitating international cooperation and collaboration, access to traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities associated with marine genetic resources in areas beyond national

jurisdiction, and the assessments of the needs and priorities of developing States Parties regarding capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. Consideration may be given to how these functions can be effectively operationalized.

Facilitating international cooperation and collaboration

79. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 3 (f), of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism is to facilitate international cooperation and collaboration, including scientific and technical cooperation and collaboration. Additionally, article 11, paragraph 3, provides that Parties are to endeavour to cooperate, as appropriate, including through specific modalities for the operation of the Mechanism determined under article 51, in relation to collection in situ of marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

80. It may be useful to consider defining the scope of international cooperation and coordination to be facilitated by the Clearing-House Mechanism, as well as the mechanisms for such facilitation. This may include identifying linkages between this function and other functions of the Mechanism and assessing whether additional databases and tools beyond those supporting other functions of the Mechanism are required. For example, networking tools could be explored as a means of fostering partnerships and collaboration between Parties, research institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

Facilitating access to traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

81. Pursuant to article 13 of the Agreement, access to traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities associated with marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction may be facilitated by the Clearing-House Mechanism.

82. Consideration may be given to the processes and requirements for registering relevant traditional knowledge, including determining who is authorized to register such information and how such information could be structured to enhance searchability. Mechanisms for facilitating access to traditional knowledge while ensuring compliance with measures adopted by Parties pursuant to article 13 may be considered. This may include establishing procedures for the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in relevant processes. Additionally, it may be useful to consider developing mechanisms for linking to external repositories of traditional knowledge while ensuring appropriate safeguards for sensitive or restricted information.

Facilitating assessments of the needs and priorities of developing States Parties

83. Pursuant to article 42, paragraph 4, of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism may facilitate the assessments of the needs and priorities of developing States Parties in relation to capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

84. It may be useful to explore the development of standardized tools for assessing and registering such needs and priorities within the Clearing-House Mechanism. This may include defining methodologies, ensuring adaptability to support other assessment approaches, such as self-assessments, and enabling the recording of needs and priorities identified through such approaches. Further consideration may be given to the linkages between these assessments and the matching function of the Mechanism under article 51, paragraph 3 (b). Additionally, it may be useful to consider establishing procedures for updating assessments, including the frequency and scope of updates, to ensure their continued accuracy and relevance.

IV. Other considerations relating to the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism

85. In addition to considerations relating to its type, structure and functionalities, as well as its functions, the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism requires consideration of several other aspects that are critical for ensuring its accessibility, efficiency and long-term sustainability. These include the facilitation of access for developing States Parties, including small island developing States Parties, oversight and coordination arrangements, resource requirements, and the possibility of taking an incremental approach to its operationalization.

A. Full recognition of the special requirements of developing States Parties and the special circumstances of small island developing States

86. Pursuant to article 51, paragraph 5, of the Agreement, in the management of the Clearing-House Mechanism, full recognition is to be given to the special circumstances of developing States Parties, as well as the special circumstances of small island developing States Parties. Their access to the Mechanism must be facilitated to enable them to utilize it without undue obstacles or administrative burdens. Additionally, information must be included on activities to promote information-sharing, awareness-raising and dissemination in and with those States, as well as to provide specific programmes for those States.

87. Consideration may be given to mechanisms that would enhance the accessibility of the Clearing-House Mechanism for developing States Parties, including small island developing States Parties. These may include access options that work with slow Internet connections, a user-friendly system that works well on mobile devices and supports multiple languages, and features that allow users to access key information without an Internet connection. Additionally, dedicated support services may be considered, such as user-friendly guidance materials, real-time technical support and localized support channels, including at the regional and subregional levels. Such considerations would need to be guided by input from these States to ensure that the identified solutions effectively address the specific challenges they face.

88. Further consideration may be given to enhancing information-sharing, awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives tailored to the needs of these States. This may include targeted technical assistance as well as workshops and training programmes for government officials, researchers and other relevant stakeholders. Additionally, financial support mechanisms to help developing States Parties overcome cost barriers associated with their engagement with the Clearing-House Mechanism may be explored.

B. Role of the Clearing-House Mechanism in outreach and education

89. In addition to its core functions, the Clearing-House Mechanism could serve as a platform for public outreach and education on the Agreement and its implementation. Consideration may be given to providing awareness-raising and educational resources within the Mechanism to enhance public understanding of the Agreement. These resources could include outreach materials, interactive learning tools and multimedia content tailored to different audiences, including youth and early career ocean professionals.

C. Oversight, coordination and management

90. Well-defined oversight arrangements, effective coordination and strong management support are essential for the effective operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism. Consideration may be given to establishing an oversight framework that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in relation to the operation of the Mechanism. It may be useful to also consider whether additional arrangements, such as an advisory mechanism, could provide technical guidance on the development and operation of the Mechanism.

91. Furthermore, mechanisms to enhance communication and coordination in relation to the operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism may be considered. In this regard, consideration may be given to the role of national focal points, focal points of relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies and focal points of other clearing-house mechanisms and databases in facilitating communication and coordination. Additionally, consideration may be given to the institutional setup within the secretariat to support the effective management of the Mechanism.

92. Further consideration may be given to ensuring accountability and transparency in the oversight of the Clearing-House Mechanism, including through periodic review by the Conference of the Parties to assess the effectiveness of the Mechanism and identify areas for improvement. This may involve structured consultation and reporting processes, as well as mechanisms to adjust oversight arrangements in response to emerging challenges. It may be useful to also consider incorporating continuous monitoring and user feedback mechanisms to inform adjustments in oversight and operational frameworks.

D. Resource requirements

93. Establishing and maintaining the Clearing-House Mechanism will require sustained financial, human, and technical resources to ensure its long-term functionality, accessibility and security. Pursuant to article 52, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, institutions established under the Agreement are to be funded through assessed contributions from the Parties. It may be useful to consider whether any requirements related to the Mechanism could also be funded through additional resources. Additionally, consideration may be given to mechanisms to enhance financial accountability and transparency in relation to the operation of the Mechanism to promote cost-effectiveness and alignment with strategic priorities of the Conference of the Parties.

94. Consideration may also be given to the human resources required for the effective operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism, including personnel with expertise in data management, cybersecurity and information technology to maintain the technical integrity and security of the platform, as well as administrative and coordination personnel to manage stakeholder engagement, user support and content management. To strengthen institutional capacity and ensure long-term expertise retention, measures such as professional development, knowledge-sharing initiatives and continuous education may be considered.

95. In terms of technical infrastructure, it may be useful to assess the resources required to establish and maintain a secure, scalable and interoperable digital platform. This includes hardware, software, cloud storage and network capacity to support high-volume data processing, system stability and user accessibility. Sustained investment in cybersecurity infrastructure, system updates and disaster recovery mechanisms, such as firewall protections, intrusion detection systems, encrypted storage and backup measures, may help prevent data loss and technical

failures. Additionally, it may be useful to consider leveraging emerging technologies, such as cloud computing and artificial intelligence-driven monitoring, to enhance efficiency, resilience and adaptability.

E. Incremental operationalization, iterative testing and ongoing improvements

96. It may be useful to weigh the benefits and challenges of establishing a fully functional Clearing-House Mechanism from the outset versus adopting an incremental approach to its operationalization, which would allow for phased development, iterative testing and continuous refinement of core functionalities before full-scale deployment. In this regard, consideration may be given to developing a structured work programme to define the stages of operationalization and identify priority functions to be established at each phase. This approach could also help address early implementation challenges and enable adjustments to be made based on real-world usage and feedback.

97. It may be useful to also explore the possibility of implementing a pilot phase to test certain functionalities, thereby providing an opportunity to assess usability, identify technical or operational gaps and implement necessary refinements before broader deployment. This phase could focus on data-sharing mechanisms, search functions, interoperability with external platforms and user navigation and incorporate a feedback loop to facilitate continuous improvements driven by user input, ensuring iterative refinements to enhance the functionality and performance of the platform.

98. To ensure the long-term effectiveness and adaptability of the Clearing-House Mechanism, it may be useful to consider establishing mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and evaluation. This may include regular performance assessments to identify areas for improvement, refine functionalities and align system capabilities with evolving requirements. Additionally, consideration may be given to implementing a structured user feedback system to support continuous enhancements post-deployment, thus ensuring accessibility and responsiveness to the changing needs and priorities of users.

V. Possible action by the Preparatory Commission

99. In the light of the above, with the support of the Secretary-General, the Preparatory Commission could consider taking the following actions to facilitate the decisions of the Conference of the Parties concerning the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism:

(a) Developing a road map for the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism, outlining timelines, key milestones and governance considerations, resource requirements and, where applicable, resource mobilization, as well as testing, monitoring and evaluation approaches;

(b) Identifying specific issues pertaining to the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism for in-depth studies. These may include, for example: the functions of the Mechanism relating to marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including the process for generating the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier; modalities for matching capacity-building needs with the support available and with providers for the transfer of marine technology; considerations relating to the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as their engagement with the Mechanism; the terms of cooperation with

relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies; and resource requirements for the operationalization of the Mechanism;

(c) Mandating expert meetings and stakeholder consultations, including during intersessional periods, to gather input from States, relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies, other clearing-house mechanisms and databases, civil society, the scientific community, the private sector, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, with a view to informing recommendations on issues pertaining to the operationalization of the Clearing-House Mechanism;

(d) Developing recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on elements of the specific modalities for the operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism.
