Statement by Norway
As delivered in SG 2.2, 26.04.2024.

• In reviewing this provision and how it relates to the rest of the agreement, we have taken note of the many tasks and competences being conferred to the future governing body.

• Norway attaches great importance to having a future governing body that will be efficient and operational, especially in its decision-making to further the goals of this agreement.

• In addition to discussing the procedure for amending the treaty and the annexes in part VI, Norway is of the opinion that there is a discussion to be had at INC4 about whether explicit decision-making rules for the governing body should be included in the text as in other instruments, and if so: what such rules could look like.

• We believe that an exchange of views on this would further guide our discussions and give all delegations an opportunity to weigh in on this important matter. Having different options included in the text will give delegations time to familiarize themselves with the idea in their preparation for our final INC in Busan and improving transparency and inclusivity to this effect.

• Although we fully appreciate that any such rules would depend on the total balance of the finalized instrument, we want to avoid a situation where we postpone important discussions.

• Now, there are several options for how what a decision-making rule could look like. At INC3, Norway submitted one option which is available on the INC website. Unfortunately, this submission was not included in the revised draft text. We based this proposal on the model from recent international environmental agreements, where consensus decision-making still is the starting point, but where majority decision-making is an option where effort to reach consensus has been exhausted.

• I can read it out if that is helpful?

  o [5. The Conference of the Parties shall make every effort to adopt decisions and recommendations by consensus. Except as otherwise provided in this instrument, if all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, decisions and recommendations of the Conference of the Parties on questions of substance shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, and decisions on questions of procedure shall be adopted by a majority of the Parties present and voting]

• We have only made one technical change from our original submission, and that is changing the word agreement to instrument.

• We ask for our proposal to be inserted in the revised draft text for the consideration of delegations.