Australian Intervention - Institutional Arrangements and Final Provisions

Thank you Mister co-facilitator.

On institutional arrangements, Australia supports an overarching approach that provides for flexibility rather than locking in specific details that may not be fit-for-purpose in the future. Australia favours the establishment of a governing body that is empowered to establish subsidiary bodies as it considers necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the instrument, and to respond to future challenges that may arise.

Where subsidiary bodies are established, we recommend that details regarding membership and election processes be included in procedures set out by the governing body, rather than in the Instrument text. As priority, we would seek (for example) for the governing body to establish a scientific body, to harness independent scientific advice, as well as Indigenous advice and expertise, to inform the instrument’s implementation.

On final provisions, Australia considers that the elements outlined in the document INC.1/8 form a sound basis for discussions, noting that these provisions tend to be similar across many multilateral environment agreements. We note that the final form of this text will need to be considered in light of the broader instrument text, once that is known.

We will share our more detailed comments on this topic through Contact Group 3.

Thank you Mister Co-facilitator.