

Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine Technology under the BBNJ Agreement: Key considerations for SIDS

Information Paper

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Executive Summary

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face significant challenges due to their unique vulnerabilities and dependence on ocean resources. To fully participate in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity under the *2023 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* (BBNJ Agreement), SIDS require targeted capacity-building, financial support, and technology transfer. These needs arise from their limited financial, technological, and human resources, as well as their deep cultural, economic, and ecological connections to the ocean and areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

The Agreement establishes a framework for Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine Technology (CB&TMT), incorporating mechanisms for information exchange, decision-making, and funding. It underscores the importance of international cooperation, financing, and partnerships to strengthen SIDS' marine conservation, sustainable resource use, and scientific capacity, while acknowledging SIDS' specific circumstances.

As the preparatory phase moves forward and the first Conference of the Parties (COP) approaches, ensuring that SIDS can actively participate in and benefit from the implementation of CB&TMT provisions is critical. Key priorities include defining practical implementation mechanisms, fostering partnerships, enhancing information-sharing platforms, and securing sustained financial support. However, challenges remain in operationalising support structures, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, and reinforcing collaboration within and among regions. Coordinated advocacy and institutional strengthening will be essential for integrating SIDS' priorities into global ocean governance.

This document highlights the importance of sustained, meaningful SIDS leadership in the BBNJ process to protect their rights and interests. It offers recommendations for advancing CB&TMT implementation, including clarifying the role of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM), establishing terms of reference for the CB&TMT Committee, securing financial resources, and developing monitoring indicators. It also identifies opportunities to advance SIDS' interests through targeted investment, strategic policy development, and collaborative initiatives that translate the Agreement's commitments into concrete outcomes.

Ultimately, CB&TMT can and should empower SIDS by expanding access to funding, scientific knowledge, and technology—enabling them to enhance marine biodiversity conservation, build research capacity, and improve marine monitoring and management. Active and purposeful engagement in the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) process will be vital for SIDS to assert their leadership and drive meaningful implementation of CB&TMT under the BBNJ Agreement.

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1. Introduction

The BBNJ Agreement is a landmark international treaty adopted by the United Nations in 2023. It aims to address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Marine biodiversity is vital for SIDS, as it supports their cultures, economies, livelihoods and food security. The Agreement is especially relevant and crucial for SIDS, given their particular vulnerabilities to environmental changes and limited resources for development. Looking ahead to implementation, key challenges include operationalising support structures for capacity building and transfer of marine technology (CB&TMT), ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, and strengthening partnerships. This includes challenges within and between regions due to geographical dispersion and limited connectivity, diverse political and economic interests, resource constraints, and dependence on external support.

The BBNJ Agreement establishes a framework for CB&TMT to support developing states, like SIDS, in the implementation of the agreement (Table 1, Annex I). For example, SIDS may require support (financial, physical and human resources) in areas such as ratification, needs assessments and implementation in relation to environmental impact assessments (EIAs), area-based management tools (ABMTs) and marine genetic resources (MGRs) (see Box 1). Specific needs will vary between individual states and regions and require assessment on a case-by-case basis - capacity needs assessments being a country-driven process, per Article 42(3).

Throughout the BBNJ negotiations, SIDS have been champions on the topic of CB&TMT. For example, SIDS were instrumental in the: (i) establishment of institutional mechanisms to implement CB&TMT, such as the CB&TMT Committee (Article 46); (ii) recognition of the special circumstances of SIDS with respect to assessing needs, ensuring support for identified needs and monitoring and reporting CB&TMT; (iii) inclusion of language and text referencing traditional knowledge (TK), maintenance equipment and capacity, and monitoring control and surveillance technologies in the types of CB&TMT (Article 44); and (iv) recognition of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC) as stakeholders in cooperation in CB&TMT (Article 41(2)). It is essential that SIDS continue to remain at the forefront of CB&TMT in the Agreement – not just to achieve the objectives of the Agreement itself, but to ensure that the treaty meets the needs of SIDS.

This paper presents the BBNJ framework for CB&TMT, identifying key considerations for SIDS in the implementation of the Agreement, and explores how the Agreement might serve to strengthen SIDS' capacity to sustainably manage marine resources, access required technologies and respond to environmental challenges.

Box 1: Examples of SIDS CB&TMT needs

- (1) **Science capacity for MGRs.** SIDS have a role in the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from MGRs, including benefits from scientific research, commercialisation of marine products, and other uses of marine biodiversity. This aligns with broader international principles and efforts to improve equity and fairness in the use of global commons, and in scientific research more broadly. SIDS struggle with limited scientific and socio-economic infrastructure resources and expertise, restricting their access to research facilities, technology, and skilled professionals. These gaps limit their ability to engage in bioprospecting and access the benefits of MGRs. Strengthening scientific capacity and technology transfer is key to their full engagement in BBNJ opportunities (Amon et al., 2022; Harden-Davies et al., 2020).
- (2) **Regulatory capacity for EIA.** Under the Agreement, SIDS must ensure that activities they conduct or permit in ABNJ are subject to EIAs. These assessments are crucial in preventing harm to marine ecosystems. Many SIDS lack the legal frameworks, institutions, infrastructure and technological tools needed for effective EIAs, making it difficult to assess environmental impacts in ABNJ. Strengthening regulatory capacity is crucial for implementing EIA processes under the BBNJ Agreement (Cicin-Sain et al., 2019).
- (3) **Monitoring Capacity for ABMTs.** SIDS, along with other states, are responsible for contributing to the establishment and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) in international waters. Successful ABMT implementation requires continuous monitoring and enforcement, but SIDS may struggle with limited funding, monitoring control surveillance technology, and personnel. Enhancing monitoring capacity is key to ensuring ABMT effectiveness under the BBNJ framework (IUCN, 2023).
- (4) **Effective representation and participation in institutional mechanisms.** SIDS will likely need to cooperate with other states and international organisations in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. Examples include sharing data, engaging in joint research initiatives and other forms of CB&TMT, as appropriate, and supporting coordinated efforts to monitor and enforce conservation measures. SIDS need active participation in international forums to advocate for their interests, but face challenges such as limited diplomatic, government or expert representation, financial constraints, and capacity gaps. Ensuring fair representation in BBNJ institutional mechanisms is crucial for SIDS to influence outcomes impacting their marine environments and economies (Gjerde et al., 2022). Effective representation requires funds, capacity and opportunities for informal consultations and knowledge exchange.

2. BBNJ Framework for CB&TMT

The BBNJ Agreement builds on the framework established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly Part XIV (Long 2007; Barterstein 2017), yet goes further by providing enabling mechanisms such as the CB&TMT Committee (Harden-Davies et al., 2024). Part V of the BBNJ Agreement is dedicated to CB&TMT, comprising seven articles that cover objectives, cooperation, modalities, types, and monitoring and institutional mechanisms (Table 1). Reflecting the importance and cross-cutting nature of the topic, CB&TMT is also referenced among the objectives of Parts II, III and IV of the Agreement (concerning MGRs, ABMTs, and EIAs). In addition to Part V, there are provisions relevant to the implementation of CB&TMT in Parts VI (Clearing House Mechanism) and VII of the Agreement (Financial Resources and Mechanism). The following table outlines the framework established by the BBNJ Agreement for CB&TMT, highlighting its scope, timing, responsible parties, and implementation mechanisms to support equitable participation, particularly for SIDS.

Table 1: BBNJ Agreement framework for CB&TMT

Category	Summary	Relevant Articles
What	The Agreement broadly defines CB&TMT, including human, financial, scientific, technological, organisational, and institutional support. Annex II provides a non-exhaustive list of initiatives. CB and TMT are linked in objectives & monitoring but distinct in obligations & implementation.	44(1), Annex II
When	Obligations occur at three stages: before, during, and after CB&TMT (see Appendix). The COP must establish the CB&TMT Committee's terms of reference at its first meeting.	46(2)
Who	<p>Responsibilities: States Parties, COP, CB&TMT Committee.</p> <p>Stakeholders: Private sector, civil society, IPLCs.</p> <p>Regions/Subregions: Input from regional/subregional bodies included in monitoring reports; evolving needs reflected in Annex II reviews; needs assessments can be regional/subregional.</p> <p>International Framework Bodies (IFBs): Lessons learned from legal instruments and frameworks, with strengthened cooperation.</p> <p>Marine technology Holders, Suppliers & Recipients: Their rights and duties considered.</p> <p>SIDS: Special circumstances recognised.</p>	42(2), 45(3), 44(3), 42(4), 44(2), 44(4)
How	<p>Cooperation, at all levels and in all forms.</p> <p>Needs assessments.</p> <p>Three institutional mechanisms provided for implementation:</p> <p>1. Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) Facilitates information sharing, matching needs with support, and promoting collaboration.</p> <p>2. Financial Mechanism Supports developing states via: (a) voluntary trust fund, (b) special fund with annual contributions and MGR-related payments (Article 14), and (c) the Global Environment Facility (GEF) trust fund. CB projects, including training, are priority areas.</p> <p>3. CB&TMT Committee Needs Assessments: Identifies and mobilises funds under Article 52 for CB&TMT, including conducting needs assessments. Funding: Provides input to the COP for initial resource mobilisation goals (until 2030) and identifies/mobilises funds. Monitoring & Review: Assesses needs and priorities, considers SIDS circumstances, reviews funding, measures performance, and makes recommendations. Reporting: Submits reports and recommendations to COP. SIDS Representation: Provided for by Article 46(2).</p>	41 42(3) 42(4), 51 45(2)(c), 52(3), 14, 52(4) 42(4), 46, 45(2)(c), 45, 46(2), 46(3), 52(11)

Table 2, below, outlines types of CB&TMT, under Article 44 of the BBNJ Agreement, focusing on data sharing, capacity development, technical expertise, infrastructure, and knowledge dissemination for effective marine biodiversity governance.

Table 2: Types of CB&TMT (Article 44)

Article Section	Type
(a)	The sharing and use of relevant data, information, knowledge and research results;
(b)	Information dissemination and awareness-raising, including with respect to relevant TK of IPLCs, in line with the free, prior and informed consent of these Indigenous Peoples and, as appropriate, local communities;
(c)	The development and strengthening of relevant infrastructure, including equipment and capacity of personnel for its use and maintenance;
(d)	The development and strengthening of institutional capacity and national regulatory frameworks or mechanisms;
(e)	The development and strengthening of human and financial management resource capabilities and of technical expertise through exchanges, research collaboration, technical support, education and training and the transfer of marine technology;
(f)	The development and sharing of manuals, guidelines and standards;
(g)	The development of technical, scientific and research and development programmes;
(h)	The development and strengthening of capacities and technological tools for effective monitoring, control and surveillance of activities within the scope of this Agreement.

3. Key Considerations and Implementation Strategies for SIDS

This section outlines the special circumstances of SIDS, focusing on their unique needs in the context of CB&TMT, and discusses key mechanisms for implementation.

3.1 Special Circumstances and Decision-Making for SIDS

The full recognition of the special circumstances of SIDS (and of least developed countries) is one of the guiding principles of the BBNJ Agreement (Art. 7). SIDS face specific vulnerabilities and dependencies on ocean resources, which must be addressed in decision-making processes and governance frameworks, ensuring their active participation and fair representation in CB&TMT activities. The BBNJ Agreement acknowledges the special circumstances of SIDS, in the context of CB and TMT, in relation to: monitoring and review (Art. 45(2)(a)(e)); the management of the CHM including facilitated access to the CHM without undue obstacles or administrative burdens, and the provision of specific programmes¹ (Art 51(5)); promoting economic and legal conditions for TMT (Art 43, 3) and marine technology to be transferred (Art 43,5); modalities for CB and TMT in ensuring CB and cooperating to achieve TMT (Art. 42(1)) and being responsive to needs and priorities (Art. 42 (4)); and cooperation in CB&TMT. Parties shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States Parties in particular, inter alia, SIDS (Art. 41 (3)); and ensuring that reporting is not onerous (Article 45). Further,

¹ “Specific programmes” could, for example, refer to dedicated initiatives, projects, or tailored support mechanisms aimed at ensuring equitable access to the CB&TMT opportunities facilitated through the CHM.

in relation to marine genetic resources, Article 14(2)(f) provides for “capacity-building, including by financing research programmes, and partnership opportunities, particularly directly-relevant and substantial ones, for scientists and researchers in research projects, as well as dedicated initiatives, in particular for developing States, taking into account the special circumstances of small island developing States and of least developed countries”. This could mean that SIDS can expect special consideration when it comes to CB&TMT.

CB&TMT could be pursued in a number of ways, including on a bilateral basis, or facilitated via the international framework provided by BBNJ. SIDS strongly advocated for the creation of the CB&TMT Committee to ensure that CB&TMT is effectively delivered to all states, with particular attention to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS. Aware of the shortcomings of past capacity-building regimes, SIDS aim to ensure this CB&TMT framework will be successful. The CB&TMT Committee is crucial for SIDS under the BBNJ Agreement for several reasons, including the’ unique vulnerabilities of SIDS and the central role the ocean plays in their economies, cultures, and livelihoods, hence capacity-building efforts must be responsive to their specific needs. These include addressing limited resources and expertise, strengthening resilience to climate change and environmental threats, promoting sustainable Blue Economies, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing in MGRs, enhancing regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing, and reducing dependency while fostering greater self-reliance. At the same time, effective implementation requires recognising and integrating the differing needs and capacities of the various SIDS.

SIDS, like other states, have the right to actively participate in the governance and decision-making processes under the BBNJ framework. This includes being part of the COP, which will oversee the implementation of the Agreement and take important decisions regarding CB&TMT, such as with respect to monitoring and review. For example, the COP is obligated to ensure that reporting requirements are streamlined and not onerous, in particular for developing States Parties, including in terms of costs and time. What does that look like for SIDS? (Article 45(3)).

3.2 Representation and Participation on the CB&TMT Committee

SIDS are specifically identified for representation in the composition of the CB&TMT Committee, under Article 46(2), marking the first time an international agreement has explicitly included SIDS in such a body (Annex 2). This representation is crucial for ensuring that the unique circumstances of SIDS are considered in the Committee’s work. It provides an important platform for SIDS to ensure their concerns are addressed, and their voices are heard in shaping frameworks and decisions related to marine biodiversity governance that directly impact them. SIDS could and should be major beneficiaries of CB&TMT, under the BBNJ framework. However, SIDS must continue to underscore the importance of their active and effective participation in the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, including and via the work of the CB&TMT Committee. SIDS representation and participation are essential for monitoring the effectiveness of the regime and advocating for timely adjustments if it falls short of delivering meaningful outcomes.

3.3 Conceptualising CB&TMT Needs and Opportunities

Understanding the needs and opportunities of SIDS is essential for tailoring strategies in capacity building, technology transfer, and the sustainable use of marine resources. SIDS can contribute significantly to the BBNJ Agreement, particularly through marine scientific research and TK, which play a key role in the success of CB&TMT initiatives (Amon et al., 2022; Mulalap et al., 2020; Harden-Davies et al., 2022). By providing SIDS with the necessary skills, technology, and resources to manage and protect ABNJ, the BBNJ Agreement could also benefit areas *within* national jurisdiction. This would ensure that SIDS have equitable access to the tools needed to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity while supporting sustainable development.

Needs

Conducting needs assessments could be useful for SIDS to identify capacity gaps and technology needs. Given that these capacity-building needs assessments should be a country-driven process, it is important to assist SIDS in fulfilling their obligations, keeping in mind their unique challenges, such as limited access to scientific data, technology, and financial resources, and the vulnerabilities of their marine ecosystems. Article 45(2)(c) provides

Assessments

a role for the CB&TMT Committee in “identifying and mobilizing funds under the financial mechanism established under article 52 to develop and implement capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, including for the conduct of needs assessments”. Operationalising this provision may be useful to provide continued support to SIDS in identifying needs and developing strategic partnerships to meet the identified needs.

Needs assessments help prioritise investments in infrastructure, human capacity, and technological expertise, ensuring that capacity-building efforts are relevant and impactful. To maximise the long-term benefits of these efforts, SIDS must also commit to sustaining the capacities developed—particularly by creating and maintaining jobs that support ongoing implementation and knowledge retention. By understanding SIDS' needs, the international community can provide more effective support for their participation in marine biodiversity governance and the sustainable use of ocean resources.

A critical first step in this process is to clearly explain the requirements and commitments of the BBNJ Agreement to key stakeholders—such as policymakers, scientists, legal experts, and community leaders. Bridging the science-policy gap is vital to ensure that SIDS can fully engage with the BBNJ framework and integrate its obligations into national and regional strategies. Raising awareness and fostering cross-sector understanding will help generate the political will and institutional commitment necessary for implementation.

Accessing

Support

Accessing adequate support is essential for SIDS to engage in the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. Required support may include financial resources, technical expertise, and capacity-building programmes. International cooperation and partnerships could be facilitated, including through the CHM, to help match SIDS' needs with available resources. Efforts can be built on the many partnerships that already exist. Flexible support mechanisms are necessary to address the varied needs of SIDS, enabling them to enhance their scientific research, data-sharing capabilities, and institutional frameworks.

Institutional Arrangements for Cooperation and Implementation

Effective institutional arrangements are vital for the successful implementation of CB&TMT. These should facilitate coordination between SIDS, international bodies, and partners, ensuring that resources are aligned with the identified needs. The CHM plays a central role in connecting resources to SIDS, facilitating collaboration, and ensuring that both technical and financial support are accessible to enhance SIDS' governance capacities for marine biodiversity and sustainable ocean management.

3.4 Towards Implementation: Key Mechanisms for Implementing CB&TMT

To facilitate the effective implementation of CB&TMT, several mechanisms must be established and strengthened:

3.4.1 Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM)

The CHM is positioned to play a key role in CB&TMT. Yet, there are issues requiring consideration: (i) clarifying and operationalising the role of the CHM in CB and TMT, including in facilitating needs assessments, sharing information and reports on CB&TMT, and matching needs with opportunities for CB&TMT; (ii) facilitating SIDS access to the CHM; (iii) cooperation with relevant IFBs in the management of the CHM.

Regarding monitoring and review of CB&TMT, reports should be made publicly available, per Art 45 (3). While the specified role for the CHM continues to take shape, it could definitely be a useful mechanism. For example, Parties could submit reports to the Committee, which then makes them publicly available on the CHM. The CHM is also positioned to play a role in information sharing, per Art 44, matching needs with opportunities, and to include information on activities and “to provide specific programmes” for developing States, including SIDS (Art 51(5)).

The special circumstances of SIDS Parties are to be given full recognition in the management of the CHM - access to the mechanism is to be facilitated to enable SIDS and developing States Parties to utilise it without undue

obstacles or administrative burdens, and information is to be included to provide specific programmes for these States. It is necessary to consider how to implement these provisions in practice, for example:

- Link the CHM with relevant SIDS bodies (the CHM shall be managed by the Secretariat, with the possibility to cooperate with other relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies as determined by COP (Article 51 para 4));
- create CHM sections that highlight funding, training, and support programmes for SIDS;
- establish regional CHM focal points within existing SIDS institutions for coordination and use regional hubs to share opportunities and facilitate collaboration, for example, on marine technology and research;
- training for SIDS users on accessing and using the CHM effectively;
- develop indicators to monitor the CHM's relevance and accessibility for SIDS; and
- conduct regular reviews to assess CHM performance and gather user feedback.

The modalities for the operation of the CHM will be determined by the COP (Article 51(2)) and considered by the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom) at its first session (UN, 2024a). SIDS have an opportunity to guide and shape this process now.

3.4.2 CB&TMT Committee

The COP is obligated to decide the terms of reference and modalities for the operation of the CB&TMT Committee at its first meeting. Given the Committee's potential role in facilitating CB&TMT implementation, it is important to consider how it can best serve the interests and needs of SIDS, understanding that matching needs is also a part of the mandate of the CB&TMT Committee (Article 42(4)). This includes considering the structure of the Committee (e.g., number and nomination of members), the type of representation required, and how it might interact with other bodies under the agreement (COP, Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) Committee, Implementation and Compliance Committee, other IFBs).

The Committee could have three types of roles: (i) recommendations to COP; (ii) guidance to states regarding planning, delivering and monitoring CB&TMT; and (iii) implementing roles for monitoring and review. These roles are both "reactive", engaging in tasks assigned by the COP, and "proactive", actively making recommendations to the COP. It is important to consider how the Committee might fulfil the responsibilities relating to monitoring and review, per Article 45 (see Table 1), and manage the potentially large workload associated with these tasks. Cooperation and coordination will be crucial in preventing duplication. The ABS Committee, Implementation and Compliance Committee, Finance Committee and the Scientific and Technical Body (STB) could all have roles in achieving the objectives of Part V.

While most existing regimes do not allocate specific seats for SIDS representation, they do offer targeted capacity-building programmes. The BBNJ Agreement could take inspiration from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA), in that, beyond prioritising SIDS' engagement through dedicated seats, consideration should also be given to prioritising voting power, and financial and technical assistance. Climate-related frameworks, such as the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), also emphasise funding and technical cooperation for SIDS' capacity-building. The BBNJ Agreement could incorporate similar provisions to ensure SIDS have the resources and support they need. For enforcement, the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) provides a potential model for the BBNJ Agreement's approach to compliance and monitoring, with a framework for port states to inspect and control foreign vessels to eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The BBNJ framework could adopt similar measures to ensure sustainable and responsible activities in ABNJ, with mechanisms for monitoring compliance and addressing violations.

3.4.3 Financial Resources and the BBNJ Financial Mechanism

Financial resources will be critical to the effective implementation of CB&TMT. Funding framework examples include those of the IMO, ISA, UNFCCC, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and PSMA (Annex 4). Potential funding and financing options for BBNJ could include:

- The BBNJ Financial Mechanism, including the special fund and the GEF trust fund (Article 52 para 3 and para 6a), (Article 52)
- Bilateral arrangements
- Partnerships with International Organizations, such as the IMO, FAO, ISA, and UNESCO-IOC, which can provide technical assistance, training programmes, and funding for technology transfer related to marine biodiversity
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), engaging private sector actors, philanthropic organisations, and research institutions to co-fund CB&TMT projects, particularly in areas such as marine scientific research, monitoring technologies, and sustainable fisheries management, also including in-kind contributions, noting that financial resources, mobilised in support of the BBNJ Agreement, may include funding provided from public and private sources (Article 52(8)).

For SIDS, financial resource requirements could be incorporated into CB&TMT needs assessments, considering short and longer term needs associated with building and sustaining capacity. To strengthen coordination, the CB&TMT Committee could establish a formal channel to submit consolidated funding needs and priorities directly to the Finance Committee, ensuring alignment between technical capacity gaps and financial planning. Additionally, joint sessions or working groups between the two committees could be convened periodically to assess progress, identify funding gaps, and adapt financial strategies to evolving capacity needs, particularly for SIDS.

3.4.4 Monitoring and Review Indicators

Monitoring and review of CB&TMT is a central element of Part V (Article 45). The provisions for monitoring and review refer not only to outputs but also to outcomes, progress and effectiveness—key issues championed by SIDS during the negotiations (Amon et al., 2022). The CB&TMT Committee is positioned to play a key role in monitoring and review (Article 45(2)), and developing guidelines on monitoring and review will likely be one of its earliest tasks (Harden-Davies et al., 2024). For example, it will be necessary to develop “agreed indicators” against which CB&TMT performance should be measured, “including on the output, outcomes, progress and effectiveness of capacity-building and transfer of marine technology under this Agreement, as well as successes and challenges” (Article 45(2)(d)).

For SIDS, ensuring that monitoring and review can take into account the special circumstances of SIDS, and not be onerous, will require strategic consideration. Aspects to be explored include: capacity building effectiveness at individual, institutional, sub-regional and regional levels; transfer of marine technology impacts; access to financial and technical support; scientific research and knowledge sharing; legal and policy development; and sustainable blue economy integration.

It will be necessary to develop SIDS-appropriate indicators. A review of existing indicators can inform this process - some illustrative examples are provided in Table 3. It is important to note that the majority of existing indicators are quantitative and output focused, whereas the BBNJ Agreement creates an opportunity to look at the quality of outcomes.

Table 3: Illustrative examples of existing indicators for CB&TMT

Type	Illustrative examples of current or proposed indicators
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of training programmes provided to SIDS representatives, researchers, and policymakers (International Seabed Authority, 2024). ● Quantity and quality of marine technology transferred to SIDS, including ocean monitoring equipment, research vessels, and software (United Nations, August 7, 2024). ● Volume of funding allocated to SIDS for marine scientific research and capacity-building programmes (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2024). ● Number of joint research projects between SIDS and international institutions (Harvard University, n.d.). ● Number of new marine protection policies implemented by SIDS with BBNJ support (High Seas Alliance, 2023). ● Increase in blue economy revenue from sustainable fisheries, marine tourism, and biotechnology in SIDS (International Seabed Authority, 2022).
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Percentage of trained personnel who apply acquired knowledge in marine management and governance (International Seabed Authority, 2024). ● Number of partnerships established between SIDS and developed countries for technology sharing (United Nations, August 7, 2024). ● Number of financial grants awarded to SIDS for marine technology and conservation initiatives (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2024). ● Percentage increase in published marine research from SIDS institutions (Harvard University, n.d.). ● Degree of alignment between national legislation and BBNJ Agreement provisions (High Seas Alliance, 2023). ● Strengthening of skills, building confidence of early career individuals, development of networks, support for follow-up initiatives (Guilhon et al. 2025). ● Number of jobs created in marine-related sectors due to BBNJ-supported initiatives (International Seabed Authority, 2022).
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Retention rate of trained professionals within SIDS institutions (International Seabed Authority, 2024). ● Adoption rate of new marine technologies by SIDS institutions (United Nations, August 7, 2024). ● Timeliness and efficiency of fund disbursement to SIDS projects (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2024). ● Data-sharing agreements signed between SIDS and global marine research networks (Harvard University, n.d.). ● Participation rate of SIDS in BBNJ negotiations and decision-making bodies (High Seas Alliance, 2023). ● Genuine and meaningful partnerships co-designed, co-developed and co-implemented by all partners, recognising that SIDS are key partners (Guilhon et al., 2025; AOSIS 2022; Harden-Davies et al. 2022).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Percentage of SIDS utilising marine spatial planning tools enabled by CB&TMT (International Seabed Authority, 2022).
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnerships that are genuine, durable, equitable, sustainable and responsive to needs that are self-identified (AOSIS, 2022). ● Extent to which trained personnel implement acquired knowledge in marine governance (International Seabed Authority, 2024). ● Impact of transferred marine technology on SIDS' capacity to manage marine biodiversity (United Nations, August 7, 2024). ● Efficiency of funding mechanisms in supporting long-term marine conservation efforts (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2024). ● Contribution of research collaborations to scientific advancements in marine sustainability (Harvard University, n.d.). ● Success of legal and policy reforms in aligning with BBNJ provisions and strengthening governance (High Seas Alliance, 2023). ● Effectiveness of blue economy initiatives in promoting sustainable economic growth in SIDS (International Seabed Authority, 2022).

3.4.5 Areas for Collaboration, Capacity Building and Technology Transfer

Since cooperation is one of the key implementing pathways identified in the BBNJ Agreement (Article 41) (United Nations, n.d.), several key areas can be prioritised to enhance joint collaboration, data-sharing, and capacity-building for SIDS, under the CB&TMT component (BOBP-IGO, 2023). Examples include:

1. Marine Scientific Research & Technology Transfer

- Establish new and/or strengthen existing regional research networks, and create and sustain an effective hub connecting SIDS institutions with marine science centres globally;
- Promote data-sharing agreements for oceanographic, biodiversity, and climate change research;
- Develop open-access marine data repositories to ensure SIDS have real-time access to ocean monitoring data; and
- Facilitate joint research cruises and expeditions in ABNJ, ensuring SIDS participation (International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2024).

Collaboration opportunity: Encourage partnerships between SIDS research institutions, international marine research bodies (e.g., IOC-UNESCO, IUCN) and universities to enhance SIDS-driven research capabilities.

2. Climate Resilience & Ocean Observation

- Enhance ocean monitoring systems in SIDS to track sea-level rise, acidification, and marine heatwaves;
- Promote knowledge-sharing on nature-based solutions (e.g., coral reef restoration, blue carbon sequestration); and
- Facilitate joint technology development for marine ecosystem monitoring using remote sensing, satellite data, etc. (Harden-Davies et al., 2024).

Collaboration opportunity: Establish regional climate and marine monitoring hubs in SIDS, supported by advanced economies and technology providers.

3. Fisheries Management & Marine Biodiversity Conservation

- Develop joint fisheries data-sharing platforms for stock assessments, harvest strategies and IUU fishing monitoring;
- Create regional MPA networks and share best practices in ecosystem-based management; and
- Promote ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management models involving SIDS coastal communities, indigenous and traditional knowledge, and scientific expertise (International Seabed Authority, 2024).

Collaboration opportunity: Form multi-stakeholder alliances between SIDS, regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), and conservation NGOs.

4. Marine Governance & Policy Development

- Enhance legal and technical training for SIDS negotiators on the BBNJ Agreement, specifically, but also including UNCLOS, its implementing agreements, and related policy frameworks;
- Support regional policy dialogues for SIDS on marine governance and sustainable blue economy strategies; and
- Facilitate South-South and North-South cooperation on best practices in fisheries management, marine law enforcement and governance (Harvard University, n.d.).

Collaboration opportunity: Establish a legal advisory, and a broader knowledge exchange network, dedicated to supporting SIDS in implementing BBNJ provisions.

5. Capacity Building for Sustainable Blue Economy

- Develop training programmes on blue economy sectors such as sustainable tourism, marine biotechnology, and offshore renewable energy;
- Develop training programmes on biological science and socio-economic research, such as stock assessment, harvest strategies, and socio-economic data analysis;
- Encourage technology incubation hubs, in SIDS, for innovations in ocean-based industries;
- Support entrepreneurship programmes for local communities engaged in marine-based livelihoods (High Seas Alliance, 2023);
- Promote programmes bringing together legal experts and policy makers with marine scientists and traditional knowledge holders.

Collaboration opportunity: Form public-private partnerships between SIDS governments, private sector investors, and international development agencies to drive sustainable marine economic growth.

6. Emergency Response & Marine Pollution Control

- Enhance SIDS capacity for oil spill response, plastic waste management, and marine pollution mitigation;
- Facilitate technology transfer for purposes such as: monitoring, control and surveillance, waste-to-energy solutions and ocean cleanup initiatives; and
- Develop regional response teams and shared protocols for maritime disasters (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2024).

Collaboration opportunity: Strengthen cooperation between SIDS, intergovernmental organisations (e.g. IMO, UNEP, IOC, ISA), non-governmental organisations and the private sector, for rapid response and pollution prevention.

By implementing these strategies and ensuring continuous monitoring and review of CB&TMT, SIDS could more fully benefit from the CB&TMT component of the BBNJ Agreement, fostering long-term capacity-building and

sustainable marine governance. It will be useful to recall the AOSIS Declaration for the enhancement of marine scientific knowledge, research capacity and transfer of marine technology to SIDS (2022; Appendix 5).

4. Conclusion

It is essential that SIDS continue to remain at the forefront of CB&TMT. This is important to achieve the objectives of the Agreement, itself, since SIDS play a key role in the conservation of marine biodiversity. It is also crucial to ensure that the treaty addresses and meets the special and unique needs of SIDS.

SIDS have been a leading force in advocating for CB&TMT, throughout the BBNJ negotiations. The BBNJ Agreement establishes a CB&TMT framework that includes objectives, cooperation, modalities, types, monitoring, and institutional mechanisms. It provides for needs assessments, funding, monitoring and review, reporting, and SIDS representation on the CB&TMT Committee. It further lays the foundation for funding for CB&TMT, via the financial mechanism. Such support could be critical to ensure SIDS' full participation in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ. Furthermore, the CB&TMT, enabled via the BBNJ Agreement, could also be applied *within* SIDS jurisdictions, which is especially important considering that SIDS are large ocean nations, responsible for managing vast exclusive economic zones (EEZs). The CB&TMT Committee is a key component of the CB&TMT framework, championed by SIDS to facilitate implementation and provide relevant and applicable expertise.

The Agreement recognises the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS, and the importance of marine biodiversity to SIDS' cultures, economies and food security. This recognition is essential for SIDS to fully realise both their rights and their responsibilities under the Agreement. CB&TMT is critical to empower SIDS to address the challenges of climate change, economic dependency, resource management, and environmental resilience, ensuring they can fully participate in the sustainable and equitable use of the global ocean commons. Specific CB&TMT needs of SIDS will vary between countries and regions, and could include elements such as science capacity for marine genetic resources, regulatory capacity for environmental impact assessments, monitoring capacity for ABMTs, and representation in institutional mechanisms.

Key considerations for SIDS in looking to implementation include: (i) operationalising the consideration of special circumstances of SIDS, in relation to CB&TMT; (ii) ensuring SIDS representation on the CB&TMT Committee; (iii) conceptualising CB&TMT needs and opportunities, including how support should be accessible for SIDS; (iv) institutional arrangements for cooperation, including a focus on the role of the CHM; (v) monitoring and review indicators that are meaningful, in the context of SIDS self-determined needs and achieving long-term goals, including through retaining and sustaining capacity for and in SIDS.

Some areas for joint collaboration, data sharing and capacity building, between and with SIDS, include: marine science and tech transfer; climate resilience and ocean observation; ocean governance and policy; building capacity for sustainable blue economy; and emergency response.

Looking ahead, SIDS might consider the following priorities for operationalising CB&TMT under the BBNJ Agreement:

1. Considering how the CHM and CB&TMT Committee might best operationalise special circumstances in practice, including institutional arrangements for matching needs with resources;
2. Advocating for clear terms of reference for the CB&TMT Committee to be able to serve proactively, e.g. to propose key performance indicators (KPIs) for monitoring and review of CB&TMT;
3. Promoting the mobilisation of financial and informational resources for needs assessments;
4. Looking ahead to empowering and appropriately resourcing SIDS representatives on the CB&TMT Committee;
5. Support for ratification to ensure that SIDS have a voice at the table. This support includes ensuring that SIDS are prepared for the responsibilities and opportunities that come with ratification.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary of BBNJ Agreement Part V

Article	Topic	Summary
40	Objectives of CB & TMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives for Part V including to: enable “inclusive, equitable and effective” cooperation and participation (b); develop marine scientific and technological capacity (c); increase and share knowledge (d); and support developing States Parties, including SIDS, through CB&TMT to achieve objectives of the Agreement (e).
41	Cooperation in CB & TMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obligation to cooperate: directly or through instruments, frameworks and bodies in achieving objectives of Agreement through CB&TMT (1); at all levels and in all forms including through partnerships with relevant stakeholders such as IPLCs, and strengthening cooperation and coordination between relevant IFBs in providing CB&TMT (2). Obligation to: give full recognition to special requirements of developing States Parties including but not limited to SIDS; and ensure that provision of CB&TMT is not conditional on onerous reporting requirements (3).
42	Modalities for CB & TMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obligation to— within Parties’ capabilities—ensure CB; and to cooperate to achieve TMT taking into account special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs (1); Obligation to— within Parties’ capabilities—provide resources to support CB & TMT and facilitate access to other sources of support (2); Provides that CB&TMT “should” be country-driven, transparent, effective, iterative, participatory, cross-cutting and gender-responsive (3); Provides that CB&TMT “shall” build upon and not duplicate existing programmes and be guided by lessons learned (3). Provides that CB&TMT “shall” be based on and responsive to needs and priorities of developing States Parties; taking into account special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs; noting that needs could be assessed on individual, subregional or regional basis; identifying roles for self-assessment or facilitation by CB&TMT Committee and CHM (4);
43	Additional modalities for TMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes a shared “long-term vision of the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer for (...) cooperation (...) to fully achieve [the objectives of the Agreement]” (1); Describes terms for TMT (2); Obligation to promote and encourage economic and legal conditions for TMT to developing States, taking into account special circumstances of SIDS (3); TMT to take into account all rights over technologies and be carried out with due regard for all legitimate interests (4); Criteria for marine technology transferred (incl. appropriate, relevant) (5).

44	Types of CB & TMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrative list of eight types of CB&TMT: data and knowledge; information sharing incl. TK; infrastructure and capacity for maintenance; institutional capacity incl. national regulatory aspects; manuals, guidelines and standards etc; (1); • Notes that further details are elaborated in Annex II (2); • Obligation on the COP to periodically review the list in Annex II (3);
45	Monitoring and review of CB & TMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obligation to monitor and review periodically CB&TMT (1); • Role for CB&TMT Committee to perform monitoring and review (2) aimed at (a) assessing and reviewing needs paying special attention to special requirements of developing States Parties and special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs; (b) reviewing support required, provided and mobilised as well as gaps; (c) identifying funds under financial mechanism; (d) measuring performance; (e) making recommendations. • Obligation on parties to submit reports to the CB&TMT Committee; obligation on COP to determine format and intervals taking recommendations of CB&TMT Committee into account; reports should be made publicly available; reporting requirements should not be onerous (3).
46	CB & TMT Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes CB&TMT Committee (1) • Stipulates requirements for composition of Committee incl. providing for representation from LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs (2); • Obligation on COP to decide terms of reference (TOR) and modalities for operation of the Committee at its first meeting (2).

Appendix 2: Roles and Responsibilities

NOTE that the triggers for Parties' obligations can be considered in three stages:

- * *Before CB&TMT activities (upon becoming a party)*
- ** *During CB&TMT activities*
- *** *After CB&TMT activities*

Obligation	Responsibility	Article
<i>Cooperation</i> : obligation to cooperate in achieving the objectives of the Agreement through CB&TMT	Parties*	41(1)
<i>CB&TMT</i> : obligation to provide CB&TMT ("to ensure CB" and "to cooperate to achieve TMT")	Parties*	42 (1)
<i>Cooperation</i> : obligation to cooperate "at all levels and in all forms, including through partnerships with and involving all relevant stakeholders...as well as through strengthening cooperation and coordination between relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies	Parties**	41(2)
<i>Considerations and requirements</i> : obligation to take into account special needs of developing states, including SIDS, and ensure non-onerous reporting requirements	Parties**	41(3)
<i>CB criteria</i> : capacity building should be country-driven and, inter alia, based upon and responsive to needs	Parties**	42
<i>Conditions for TMT</i> : obligation to promote and encourage economic and legal conditions for TMT to developing States Parties, taking into account special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs, which may include incentives to enterprises and institutions	Parties**	43(3)

<i>Monitoring and review:</i> obligation to monitor CB&TMT undertaken in accordance with Part V	Parties**	45(1)
<i>Reporting:</i> obligation to submit reports to the CB&TMT Committee for the purpose of monitoring and review taking into account, where applicable, input from regional and subregional bodies on CB&TMT	Parties***	45(3)
<i>Types of CB&TMT:</i> to periodically, as necessary, review, assess, further develop and provide guidance on the lists in Annex II	COP [CB&TMT Committee make recommendations]	44(3)
<i>Monitoring and review:</i> to monitor and review periodically CB&TMT, aimed at: (a) assessing and reviewing needs paying special attention to special requirements of developing States Parties and special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs; (b) reviewing support required, provided and mobilised as well as gaps; (c) identifying funds under financial mechanism; (d) measuring performance; (e) making recommendations	CB&TMT Committee [States to monitor and submit reports]	45 (2)
<i>Guidance on reporting:</i> to determine the format and intervals of the reports on CB&TMT to be submitted to the CB&TMT Committee by Parties, taking into account recommendations of the Committee; to ensure that reporting requirements should be streamlined and not onerous	COP [CB&TMT Committee make recommendations]	45 (3)
<i>Committee TOR:</i> to decide the terms of reference and modalities for operation of the Committee at its first meeting	COP	46 (2)
<i>Reports and recommendations:</i> To submit reports and recommendations that the COP shall consider and take action on as appropriate	CB&TMT Committee	46 (2)

Appendix 3: Comparative Analysis of Capacity-Building Regimes in International Agreements

While most existing regimes do not allocate specific seats for SIDS representation, they commonly offer targeted capacity-building programmes aimed at enhancing SIDS' participation and influence. The BBNJ Agreement could draw inspiration from successful models, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA), which have established mechanisms to prioritise SIDS' engagement in maritime and ocean governance. These mechanisms could include dedicated seats or voting power within decision-making bodies, as well as targeted financial and technical assistance to support SIDS' capacity to participate effectively.

Furthermore, climate-related frameworks, such as the UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), highlight the crucial role of funding and technical cooperation in facilitating capacity-building for SIDS. The BBNJ framework could incorporate similar provisions to ensure that SIDS have access to the resources and support they need to implement and benefit from the Agreement.

In terms of enforcement, the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) provides a potential model for the BBNJ Agreement's approach to compliance and monitoring. The PSMA establishes a framework for port states to inspect and control foreign vessels, with the aim of preventing, deterring, and eliminating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. BBNJ could adopt similar measures to ensure that activities in ABNJ are conducted in a sustainable and responsible manner, with appropriate mechanisms for monitoring compliance and addressing violations.

Regime	Body	Function	Comments	SIDS-Specific Aspects
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA); Capacity-Building Action Plan	Provides scientific and technical assessments, advises on biodiversity-related policies, and supports capacity-building for implementation.	Similar to BBNJ's goal of supporting conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.	No dedicated seats, but SIDS benefit from special funding mechanisms and targeted biodiversity programmes. (CBD Secretariat, 2022 ; Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA))
UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee (TEC)	Technology Mechanism (TEC + Climate Technology Centre & Network)	Supports technology development and transfer to developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	Relevant for BBNJ in terms of marine technology transfer and support for capacity-building.	No dedicated SIDS representation, but SIDS benefit from targeted climate adaptation funding and technical assistance. (UNFCCC, 2023)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC); Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP)	Provides capacity-building and technical assistance for maritime safety, security, and environmental protection.	BBNJ could take inspiration from IMO's technical assistance structure.	Prioritises SIDS in capacity-building and technical assistance. No dedicated seats in TCC but active participation. (IMO, 2023 ; Technical Cooperation ; Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP))
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Committee on Science and Technology (CST); Capacity Building Marketplace	Supports scientific research, policy guidance, and capacity-building for land degradation and desertification.	Similar approach to BBNJ in supporting science-based policy and technology transfer.	No dedicated seats, but SIDS participate through regional groups and targeted funding for land resilience. (UNCCD, 2022 ; Committee on Science and Technology UNCCD ; https://www.unccd.int/capacity-building-marketplace)
International Seabed Authority (ISA)	Legal and Technical Commission (LTC); Finance Committee	Regulates seabed mineral activities and supports capacity-building for deep-sea research.	Closely related to BBNJ as both deal with ocean governance beyond national jurisdiction.	No dedicated seats, but SIDS participate in seabed-related capacity-building initiatives and scholarships. (ISA, 2023 ; The Legal and Technical Commission -

				International Seabed Authority)
FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)	FAO Port State Measures Committee	Strengthens capacity to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.	BBNJ could adopt similar compliance and enforcement capacity-building approaches.	No dedicated seats, but SIDS receive targeted technical support for implementing the PSMA. (FAO, 2023 ; Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)
WHO International Health Regulations (IHR)	IHR Review Committee	Provides global health security guidance and capacity-building for public health emergency response.	BBNJ could use IHR as a model for building rapid response networks for marine biodiversity threats.	No dedicated seats, but WHO regional offices prioritise SIDS for health security support. (IHR Review Committees)
International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)	Provides global cooperation on plant health, standards, and capacity-building for phytosanitary measures.	BBNJ may relate to IPPC in standard-setting and capacity-building for marine biosecurity.	No dedicated seats, but SIDS receive technical assistance through FAO regional bodies. (IPPC Secretariat, 2023 ; The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) - International Plant Protection Convention)

Appendix 4: Funding

- **Marine Scientific Research & Training** – The **ISA Endowment Fund** has funded scholarships, deep-sea exploration training, and research programmes for scientists from developing states (*ISA, 2023*).
- **Fisheries Monitoring & Compliance** – The **FAO**, through the **Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)**, has funded vessel monitoring systems, training for fisheries inspectors, and enforcement programmes to combat illegal fishing (*FAO, 2023*).
- **Climate Resilience & Ocean Management** – The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** has financed projects under the **UNFCCC**, supporting coastal resilience, marine biodiversity conservation, and sustainable fisheries in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (*GEF, 2023*).
- **Maritime Safety & Pollution Control** – The **IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP)** has provided funding for training, pollution response equipment, and regulatory development for maritime safety (*IMO, 2023*).
- **Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Technologies** – The **UNFCCC Technology Mechanism** has supported technology transfer initiatives, including renewable energy integration and green shipping solutions for developing states (*UNFCCC, 2023*).

Appendix 5: AOSIS Declaration for the Enhancement of Marine Scientific Knowledge, Research Capacity and Transfer of Marine Technology to Small Island Developing States, 27 June 2022

1. **Genuine, durable, equitable, sustainable and responsive** to needs that are self-identified, inter alia through national, regional and global policies and strategies as well as needs assessments.
2. **Co-designed, co-developed and co-implemented** by all partners through meaningful engagement and information-sharing to build a shared understanding of the objectives, aims and desired outcomes, and ensure the terms are suitably defined, while allocating sufficient time and resources to establish effective and long-term relationships based on mutual trust and respect, recognizing that SIDS are key partners rather than passive beneficiaries.
3. **Built on mutual learning and innovation** between all partners, while respecting that all partners hold diverse forms of knowledge and experience, including traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples, and local knowledge systems that should be accessed and used following the principle of free, prior and informed consent in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
4. **Achievable by being realistically designed** in a country-relevant and context specific manner, with the flexibility to adjust with changing needs or respond to new opportunities, while recognizing that needs assessments are integral to the development of such strategies.
5. **Fully supported for the duration of the partnership**, and provides for long-term sustainability strategy and capacity retention through allocating adequate long term, predictable and sustainable resources for long-term implementation, especially for early-stage development, while accommodating for the mobilization of new resources as required, and ensuring that transfer of technology and capacity-building are mutually supported by appropriate and effective human resources capacity,
6. **Accountable, inclusive and transparent** with open communication amongst all partners, to reflect on the motivation, benefits, and other factors influencing equitable capacity development outcomes, by providing spaces for engagement with all relevant stakeholders and knowledge exchange about best-practice approaches, results and challenges, with all relevant stakeholders.
7. **Subject to periodic monitoring, evaluation and learning** from experience, with the purpose of evaluating whether the long-term outcomes were achieved, through the use of clearly established baselines, targets and indicators, supplemented by support for the data collection and reporting to enable adjustments of the partnership based on the results.
8. **Designed with the flexibility to review and reform** the operating, funding and governance structure, to ensure that evolving needs can be reflected and catered for.