

Co-Chairs' Report back to plenary | CONTACT GROUP 1

29 April 2024

On behalf of the contact group 1 co-chair and myself, I am pleased to provide this final report back to the plenary on the work done by contact group 1 and its subgroups.

A first report of the contact group was delivered to the plenary on the evening of Friday, 26 April. This report therefore primarily refers to the work undertaken in the sub-groups 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 since then and the discussions of contact group 1 earlier this evening.

Contact group 1 resumed at 6 pm this evening to hear the reports back from sub-groups 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 as well as agree on the way forward.

Sub-group 1.1 met five times in total. Since the last update to the plenary, the group met twice, on 27 April 2024 and 29 April 2024. The subgroup was able to complete a full reading through of all elements. The subgroup was also able to commence textual negotiations, based on either the co-chairs' or the co-facilitators' validated streamlined text to the three provisions: part 1.2 (objective), part I.5 (scope) and Part II.12 (just transition). The subgroup completed a first round of textual negotiations on six of the seven elements within its remit. The subgroup did not undertake textual negotiations on part I.3 (definitions) because the group felt it was premature at this stage of the process. The outcomes of the work of subgroup 1.1 are documented in the co-facilitators' non-paper on the outcomes of the subgroup.

Subgroup 1.2

Subgroup 1.2 met 8 times, for around 28 hours, and conducted the first review of the Co-Chairs' technical streamline for the provisions under the mandate of this group that was completed. In that document, elements II.4, II.4bis, 10a, inclusive of options 0 and 2 were not technically streamlined. The group then started a second round of discussions, which was textual negotiation on elements II.1, II.2, II.3, II.3bis, II.4bis. This round of text-based negotiation of II.5 was not completed due to lack of time, with interventions from Uruguay, the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Cuba, Iran, and Brazil remaining to be taken up when negotiations resume. It was suggested that when negotiations resume, they will start with this provision, picking up from the list of speakers. It was decided to defer element II.4 to a later stage of negotiations. Text proposals presented by Members of the committee during the text-based negotiations are reflected in bold type in the outcome document.

Some delegations expressed concern that they did not have sufficient opportunity to review and make submissions on the text regarding the content of potential annexes that are included in the cofacilitators' non-paper.

Subgroup 1.3 held 6 sessions in total, including a joint session with subgroup 1.2 on fishing gear. Since the last meeting of the contact group, the co-facilitators of subgroup 1.3 prepared, jointly with the co-facilitators of subgroup 1.2, a further streamlined text on fishing gear, which was validated in subgroup 1.3 and was the starting point for text-based

negotiations in subgroup 1.3, without prejudice to the different positions on the placement of such text or if there should be any such provision at all. These discussions were not exhaustive for all paragraphs in this text. The proposals raised by Members during the discussion are reflected in the outcome document in bolded type.

The co-facilitators of subgroup 1.3 also issued a further streamlined text on Elements II.7, II.8, II.9(a), II.10(b) and II.11, which was validated by the subgroup as a starting point for further work and initiated text-based discussions on this text. In that context, the subgroup was able to conduct text-based negotiations in all paragraphs of element II.7 and to initiate such negotiations for element II.8, which was not exhausted. The subgroup was not able to conduct text-based negotiations of elements II. 9(a), II. 10(b) and II. 11.

The further streamlined text endorsed as starting point for further work in subgroup 1.3 provided the basis for textual negotiations in the subgroup, whose output has been reflected in the Co-facilitator's non-paper on the subgroup's outcomes. Proposals raised by Members during the text-based negotiations are also reflected in this outcome document. The co-facilitators acknowledged that Members also presented proposals on elements within the subgroup's mandate through written submissions which are available through the online submission portal, but proposals are reflected in the outcome only in those cases where they were presented from the floor.

This concludes our report, and with this we are forwarding the text that is captured in the non-papers of the co-facilitators of subgroups 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 as part of the outcomes of the work of the contact group for consideration by the Committee.