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Good Afternoon from the beautiful islands of Bahrain.
Wishing you all health and safety in this difficult time.

NGO's Priorities are :

- . Good process of effective and meaningful participation of NGOs including for instance meeting regional groups and bilateral meetings and consultations.
- . more representation (in number) for NGOs, in physical meetings as well as virtual meetings with limited seat, being the largest MG and the fastest growing.
- . But also ensuring maximum and wider meaningful effective participation, not only for facilitators but also for other active NGOs that have the urge and knowledge to participate and get involved and enrich the discussion in case of physical or remote participation.
- . with Max technical ease and enabling for NGOs coming from different places and different enabling environments, to participate effectively (attend & have their voice heard)

Having said that, the NGO MG discussed the options internally and felt the need for further discussions to reach total agreement.

But from NGOs responses so far, it showed that :

Option 3 is the preferred option, Option 1 next .

Combination of Option1 and Option3 was also discussed. In other words, UNEA5 in two parts, something similar to what Ambassador Elin Rognlie explained earlier.

No votes for Option2 . Option 4 was mentioned once as second to Option3

Reasons given by NGOs for choosing Option3 were in short :

- . To support physical meeting in 2022, for all the benefits that come with direct communications,
- . but also because there is a concern that time zone difference might limit participations of NGOs (in case of virtual meetings)
- . Also technical difficulties could prevent some NGOs from full and effective participation (as we experienced before)
- . also a concern that virtual meetings might make it even more difficult for NGOs to get good chances to speak and cast their voices, exchange views and lobby with government Representatives, which we found very useful in past experiences.

Reasons for option1 hybrid version

- . If conducted carefully with full technical success, can enable wider participation from grassroots and local NGOs, that are often left out despite their important work on the ground
- . Has less health risks / cost
- . Also not to delay addressing major biodiversity crises and other urgent environmental matters
- . Good inputs to UNEA5 can help set the bar high for CBD COP15

. Although it will mean limited physical participation, but it can work if representatives of all MGs (NGO in our case) are participating physically fully and effectively, with possibilities for other NGOs to join virtually with Max technical ease.

To summaries the NGO MG summary

Our priority is

Ensuring good process enabling effective and meaningful participation of NGOs whether physical or hybrid

Option 3 is our preferred option & it could work to have a hybrid option between Option 3 and Option 1