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Belgium and Chile decide to join their candidatures for the seat of the BBNJ Secretariat

Belgium and Chile assign the highest importance to a successful COP1 of the BBNJ Agreement (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) and to a swift implementation of its provisions. In this regard, both countries have agreed to coordinate their efforts to promote these objectives as a contribution to a coherent and comprehensive governance of the ocean.

Belgium and Chile have been working intensively in several areas of the preparatory work towards COP1. Among these important areas, both countries have led together a proposal on the operationalization of the institutional arrangements of the Agreement.

In line with this fruitful cooperation, Belgium and Chile have decided to join their candidatures for hosting the Secretariat, also as a contribution to facilitate an effective decision at COP1.

This joint candidature provides for the Secretariat being based in the city of Valparaíso, Chile, from which its main functions will be delivered as expressed in the BBNJ Agreement, including the operationalization of the financial mechanism.

The Secretariat will manage the Clearing House Mechanism, of which the physical and technical infrastructure will be installed in and operating from Brussels.

Both countries also offer to provide continuity in the organization of the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies, and in this context, they will make use of the major diplomatic hub Brussels as host city, consistent with the respective decisions by the COP.

Belgium and Chile will continue working together to contribute to the success of the BBNJ Agreement, in collaboration with all Parties and observers.

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