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A future international instrument for ABNJ under UNCLOS would need a governing organ bringing together representatives of all parties to the instrument to take critical decisions and ensure accountability. Such an organ could be organized in the form of a Meeting of the Parties, and have equal representation from each member party, meet regularly to adopt rules of procedure, elect its president and officers, assess and approve budgetary matters, and establish policies to implement the provisions of the instrument. Furthermore, the Meeting of the Parties could

- elect members of established Committees;

- review reports from the Committees, Secretariat and member parties;

- promote studies and make recommendations that foster international cooperation and improve the

Scientific advisory bodies are an important feature of multilateral environmental agreements because they support informed, science-based decision-making and minimize the potential influence of biased interests promoted by individual states or stakeholder groups (see *Paper XII*). To provide advice on scientific and other technical matte

members should serve in their personal capacity, act objectively in the best interest of the instrument, avoid direct and indirect conflicts of interest, and make a solemn declaration that he or

