



Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Next steps in relation to the 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)

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IOC Officers meeting
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What is in the Agreement?

- ❖ A package of issues
- ❖ Cross-cutting issues
- ❖ Grounded in science
- ❖ Some novel features





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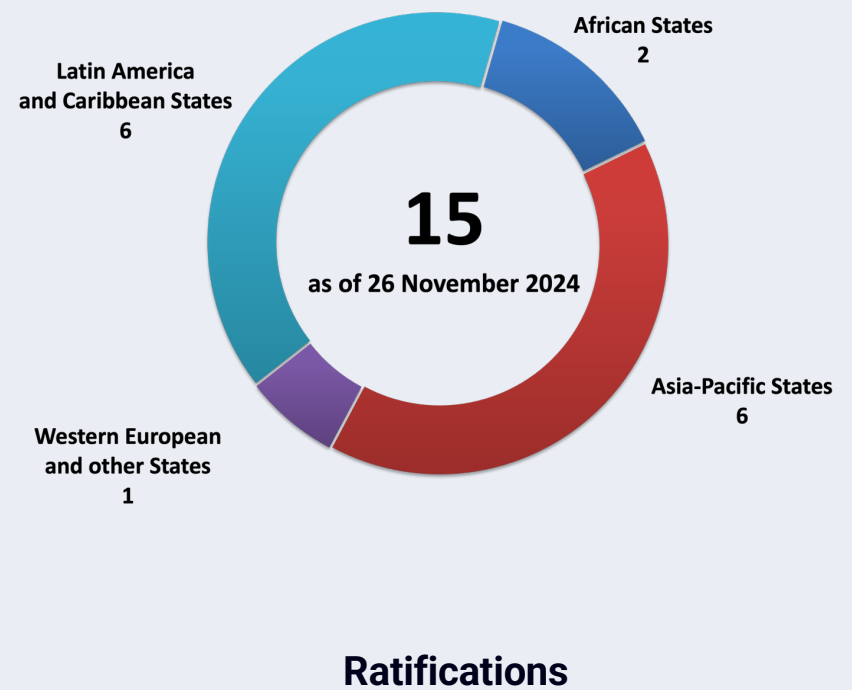


- **Relationship with UNCLOS and other relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies (IFBs):**
 - Not undermine relevant IFBs
 - Promote coherence and coordination with relevant IFBs
- **International cooperation**



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Current status of the BBNJ Agreement



Way forward ...



Open for signature: 2 years from 20 September 2023



Entry into force: 120 days after 60 instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession



First meeting of the Conference of the Parties: to be convened by the UN Secretary-General within one year after the entry into force of the Agreement

BBNJ Agreement Preparatory Commission



❖ **Established by UNGA Resolution 78/272 of 24 April 2024**

The Commission:

- Shall **prepare** for the **entry into force** of the BBNJ Agreement and the **convening of COP1**
- Shall **meet** at UNHQ, unless otherwise decided
- **Open** to all UN Member States, members of the specialized agencies and parties to UNCLOS
- Also open to **observers**
- Shall prepare a **final report** on all matters within its mandate for presentation to COP1
- Shall **cease** to exist at the conclusion of COP1

Organizational meeting of 24-26 June 2024

- Elected the **Co-Chairs** and a **Bureau** composed of 15 members
- Decided **dates** of future sessions
 - 14 - 25 April 2025
 - 18 - 29 August 2025
- Requested the co-chairs, in consultation with bureau, to prepare **provisional POW** on basis of **clusters** of issues and on the understanding that matters to be addressed by COP as expressly set out in the Agreement are given priority
- ❖ “Statement of the co-chair of the Preparatory Commission at the closing of the organizational meeting” (document A/AC.296/2024/4)

Clusters of issues

Governance issues

- Rules of procedure for COP*
- Terms of reference, modalities for the operation and rules of procedure for subsidiary bodies (ABS Committee, CBTMT* Committee, Finance Committee, Implementation and Compliance Committee*, STB*)
- Selection process for members of STB* and other subsidiary bodies
- Arrangements for functioning of the secretariat*
- Reporting requirements
- Arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant IFBs

Issues pertaining to the operation of the CHM

- **Modalities for the operation of the CHM, such as:**
 - a. Type, architecture and functionalities of the platform
 - b. Process for generating the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier
 - c. Modalities to facilitate the matching of CB needs with the support available and with providers for the TMT
 - d. Terms of cooperation with relevant IFBs

Financial rules, and financial resources and mechanism

- **Financial rules governing the funding of the COP, the secretariat and any subsidiary bodies***
- **Arrangements with GEF to give effect to provisions on funding***
- **Operationalization of provisions on financial resources and mechanism, e.g.** [subject to further consultations]:
 - a. Establishment of the voluntary trust fund
 - b. Arrangements to give effect to provisions on the special fund
 - c. Scale of assessed contributions

Latest developments

❖ UNGA decision of 13 August 2024:

- Endorsed the decision of the organizational meeting on the dates of the first and second session of the BBNJ Prep Com
- Requested the SG to convene at least one session of 10 working days in 2026 on dates to be determined

Latest developments (cont.)

- Online briefing by Co-Chairs (11 December)
- Issuance of the provisional agenda and provisional programme of work
- Notification of convening of PrepCom 1 sent on 10 January
- On-going preparation of working documents for the first session
- Information on national focal points

DOALOS mandate

- Article 50, paragraph 2, of the BBNJ Agreement
- UNGA Resolution 77/321 of 1 Aug. 2023
 - ✓ Perform secretariat functions under the Agreement until the secretariat to be established under the Agreement commences its functions.
 - ✓ Promote a better understanding of the Agreement.
 - ✓ Prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement.
- **UNGA Resolution A/78/272 of 24 April 2024**
 - ✓ **Provide the BBNJ Agreement PrepCom with assistance necessary for performance of its work, incl. secretariat services & provision of essential background information & documents**



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Thank You



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