Update on the “BBNJ” Preparatory Committee (Resolution 69/292)

Charlotte Salpin, Legal Officer
September 2016
Nearly 2/3 of the oceans are areas beyond national jurisdiction...

Legend: hypothetical overview of repartition of oceans among high seas areas and EEZ if all EEZ had been declared up to 200M
The UNGA process so far

- Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (2006 - 2015)

- Preparatory Committee (resolution 69/292)
GA resolution 69/292

- Decides to develop an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on BBNJ
- Establishes a Preparatory Committee to make substantive recommendations on elements of a draft text
- GA to decide on intergovernmental conference by end of 72nd session (i.e. by mid-Sept. 2018)
GA resolution 69/292

Preparatory Committee

- Process should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies

- Legal status of Parties and non-parties to UNCLOS or any other related agreements not affected by participation in the negotiations or their outcome

- Negotiations to address the 2011 package of issues
The package of issues

- Marine genetic resources, inc. benefit sharing
- Area-based management tools, inc. MPAs, & EIAs
- Governance
- Capacity-building & transfer of marine technology
Prep Com I
(March-April 2016)

- Informal working groups on each issue of the package
- Chair’s overview
  (Compilation of issues raised; Chair’s reflections)
Prep Com II
(August-September 2016)

- Chair’s suggestions of possible issues and questions
- Informal working groups on each issue of the package & Informal working group on cross-cutting issues
- Chair’s understandings of possible areas of convergence and possible issues for further discussion
What next?

- Prep Com II follow-up
  - Chair’s reflections
  - Compilation of proposals on elements
  - Chair’s paper on elements
What next?

- Submission of views on elements
- 2 Prep Com sessions in 2017
- Prep Com report to the GA end of 2017
- GA to make decision on conference by mid-September 2018