



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

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)

UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives

4 December 2023

“You have pumped new life and hope to give the ocean a fighting chance.”

- António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

- **Adoption: 19 June 2023**
- **Open for signature: 2 years from 20 September 2023**
- **Entry into force: 120 days after 60 instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession**

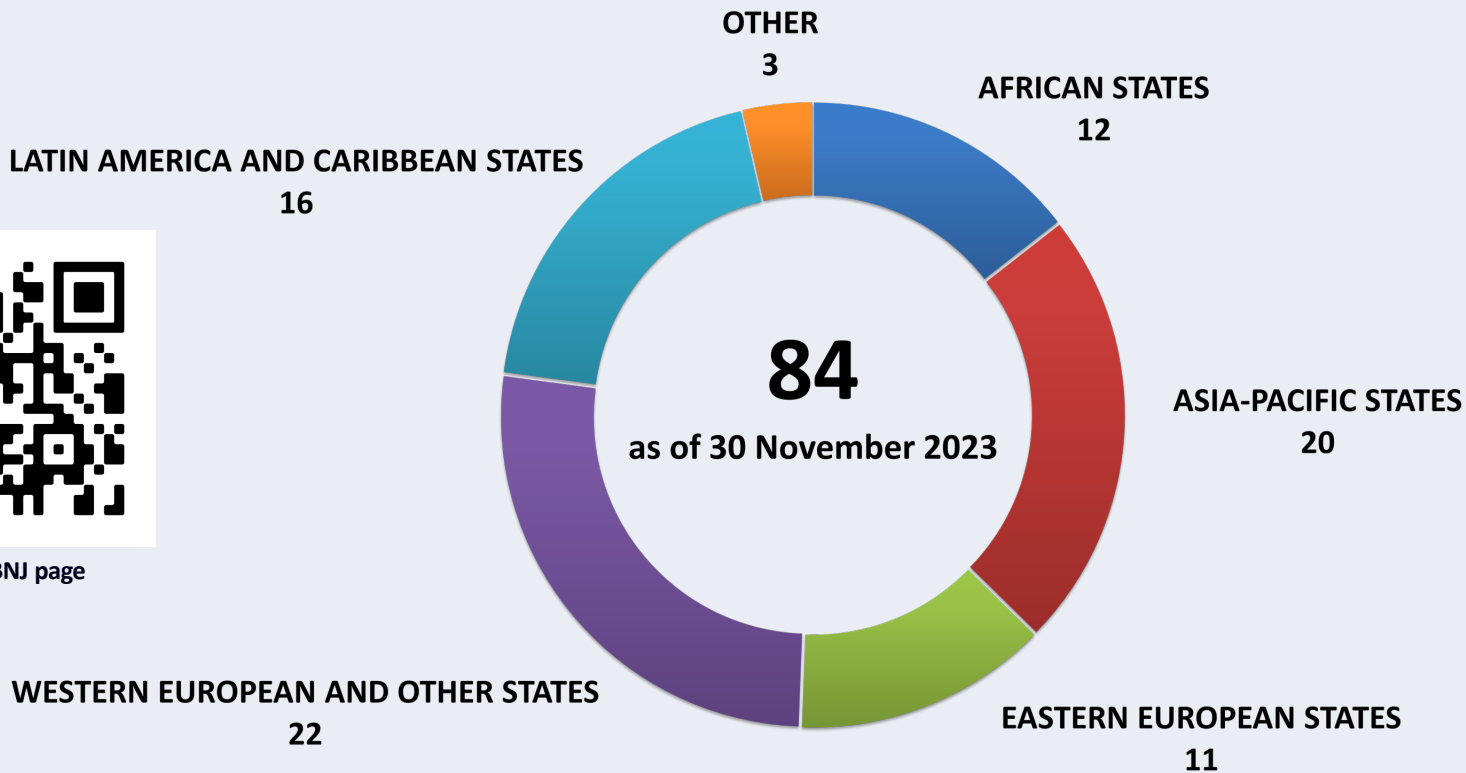


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Signatories by regional groups

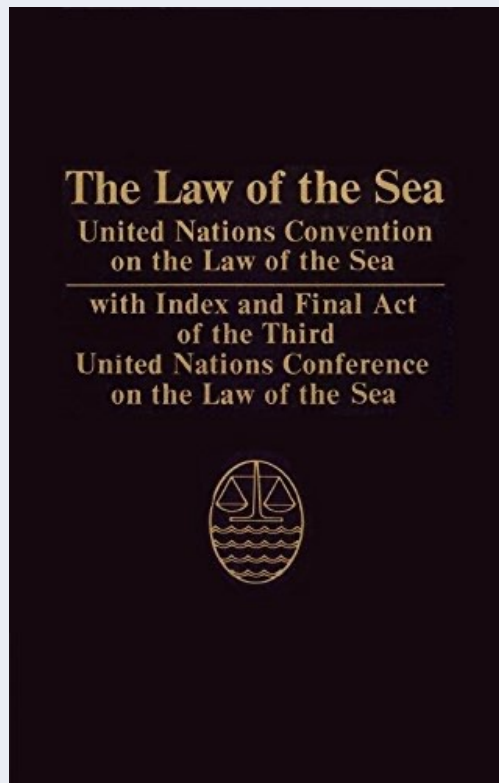


UNTC – BBNJ page





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United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

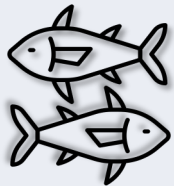
- 169 Parties
- Known as “Constitution for the ocean”

The “UNCLOS family”

- Implementing agreements



- Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (*adopted on 28 July 1994; entered into force on 28 July 1996*)



- United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (*adopted on 4 August 1995; entered into force on 11 November 2001*)

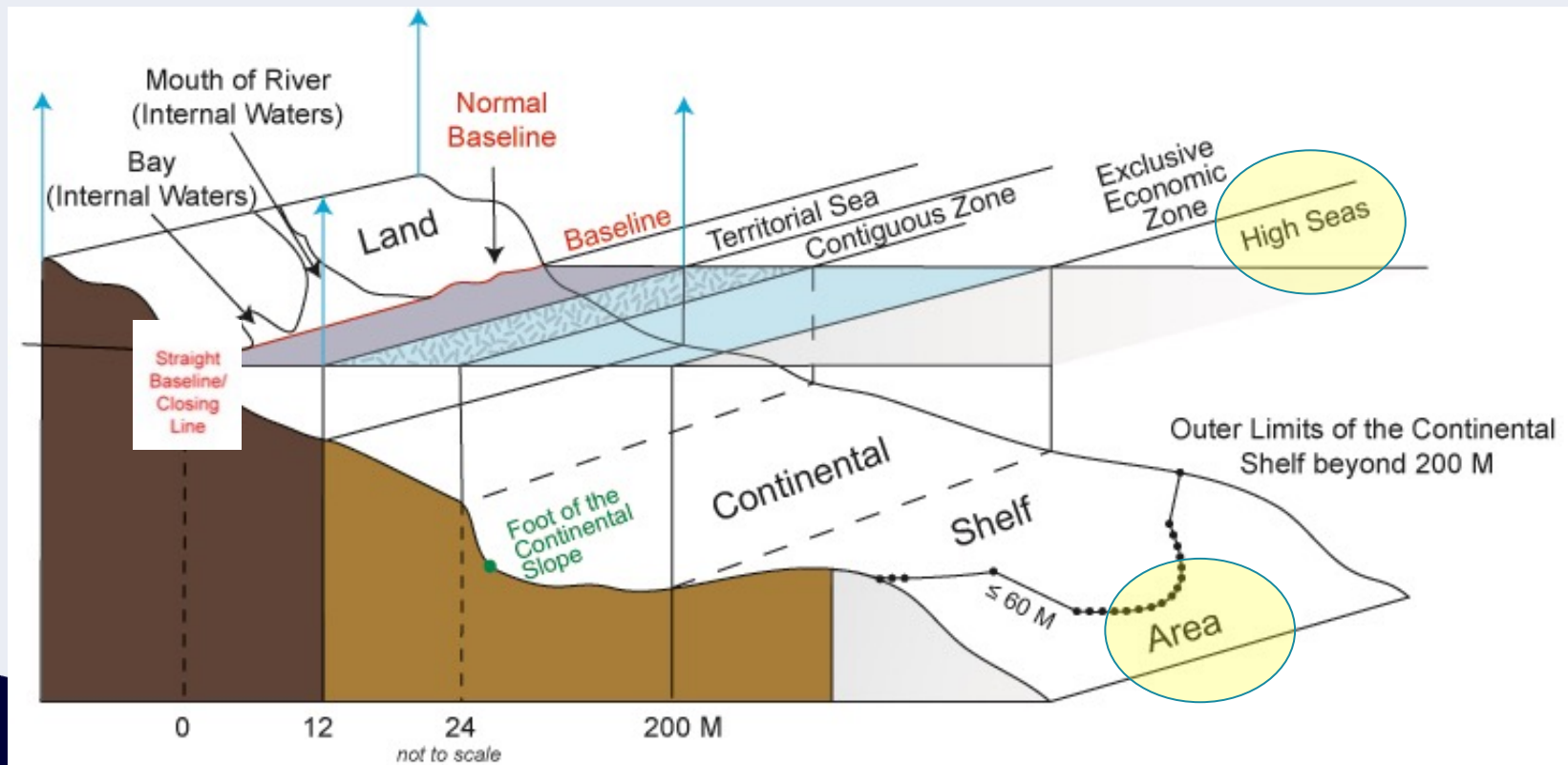
Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement :

- third implementing
agreement to UNCLOS



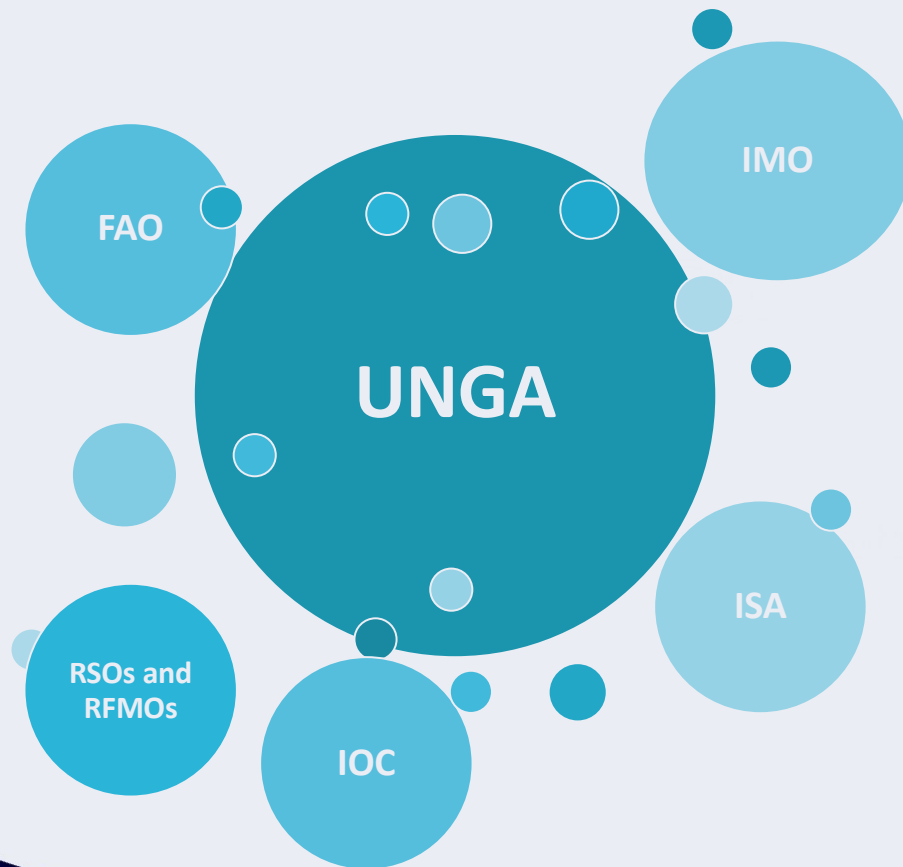
UN World Oceans Day Photo Competition
@simonbiddie

Maritime zones – overview





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... where several sectoral organizations have competence

... where there was no overall cross-sectoral coordinating mechanism for management

Why does the BBNJ Agreement matter?



A path towards greater level-playing field



A vital step for our planet



A significant development for ocean affairs and the law of the sea and furthering cooperation



A crucial contributor to relevant global goals and targets



What is in the Agreement?

- ❖ 14 general principles and approaches
- ❖ A package of issues
- ❖ Cross-cutting issues



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- **Relationship with 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**

Institutional arrangements



Conference of the Parties (COP)



**Scientific and
Technical Body**



**Access and Benefit-
Sharing Committee**



Secretariat



**Clearing-
House
Mechanism**



**Implementation
and Compliance
Committee**



**Capacity-Building
and Transfer of
Marine Technology
Committee**



**Finance
Committee**

**And other
cross-cutting
issues...**

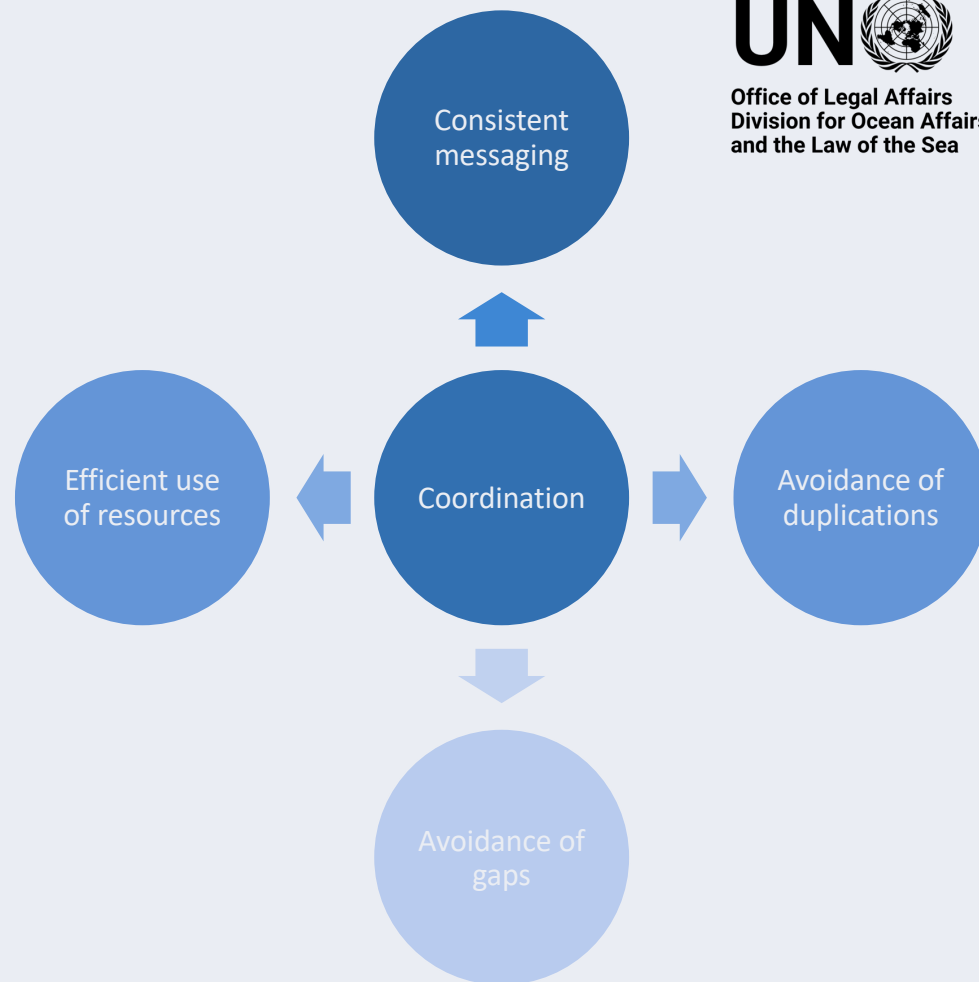
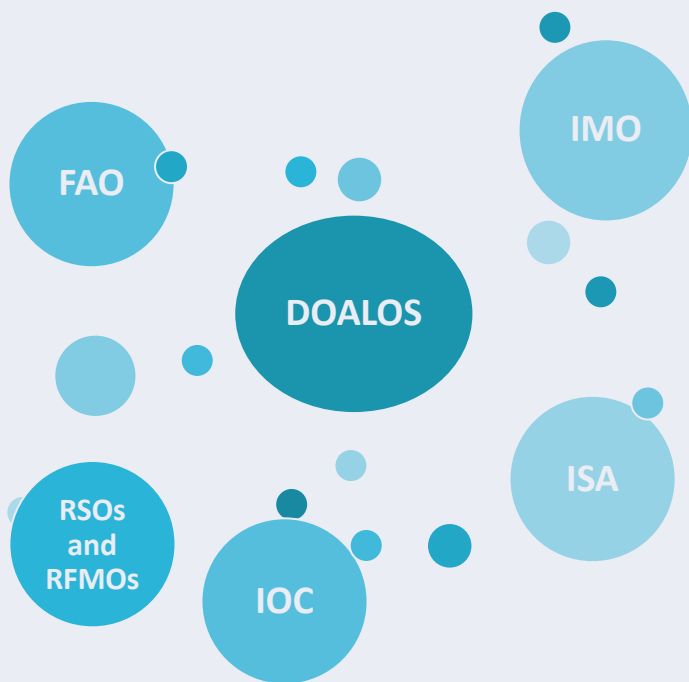
Next steps & DOALOS role

- To perform the secretariat functions until the secretariat to be established under the Agreement commences its functions
- To promote a better understanding of the Agreement
- To prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement
- To facilitate inter-agency coordination and cooperation of the UN system in supporting the entry into force and implementation of the Agreement, including through UN-Oceans



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Coordination & cooperation



Support from UNEP?

- Cooperating with DOALOS in planning and delivery of BBNJ Agreement-related activities
- Leveraging the Regional Seas platform in support of DOALOS regional workshops
- Supporting coordinated funding



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Thank You



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