



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)

An update

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Briefing to the UNEP CPR, 27 February 2025

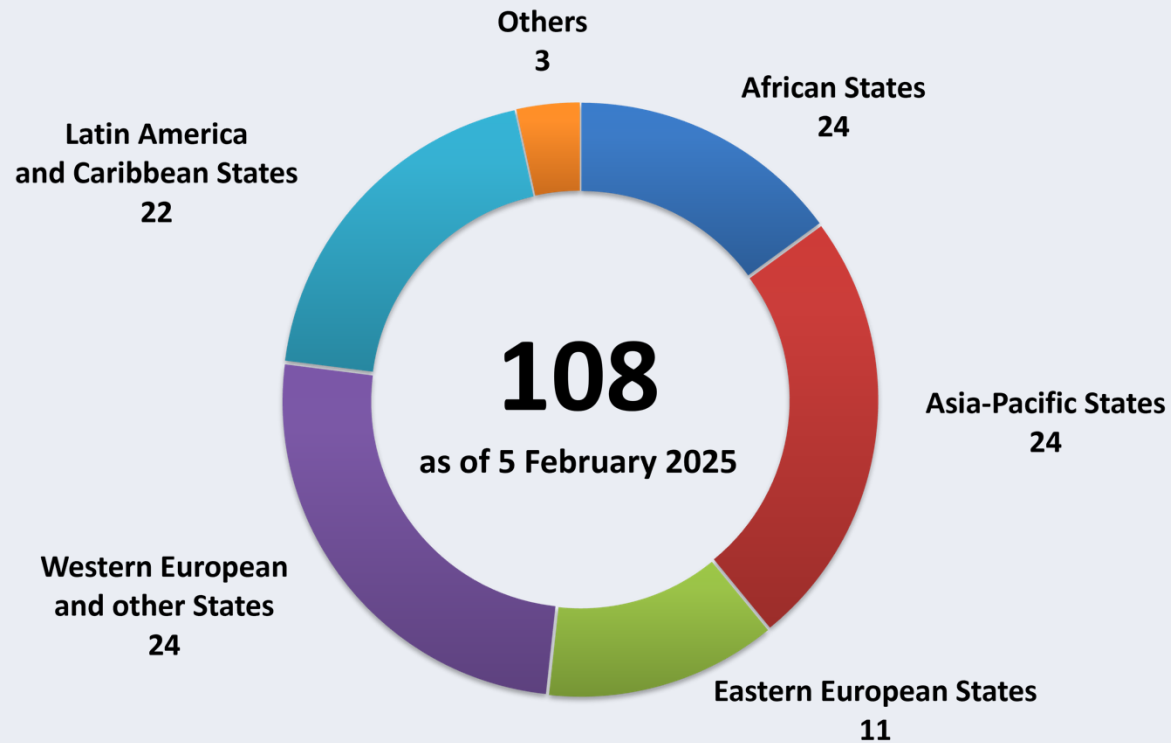
What is in the Agreement?



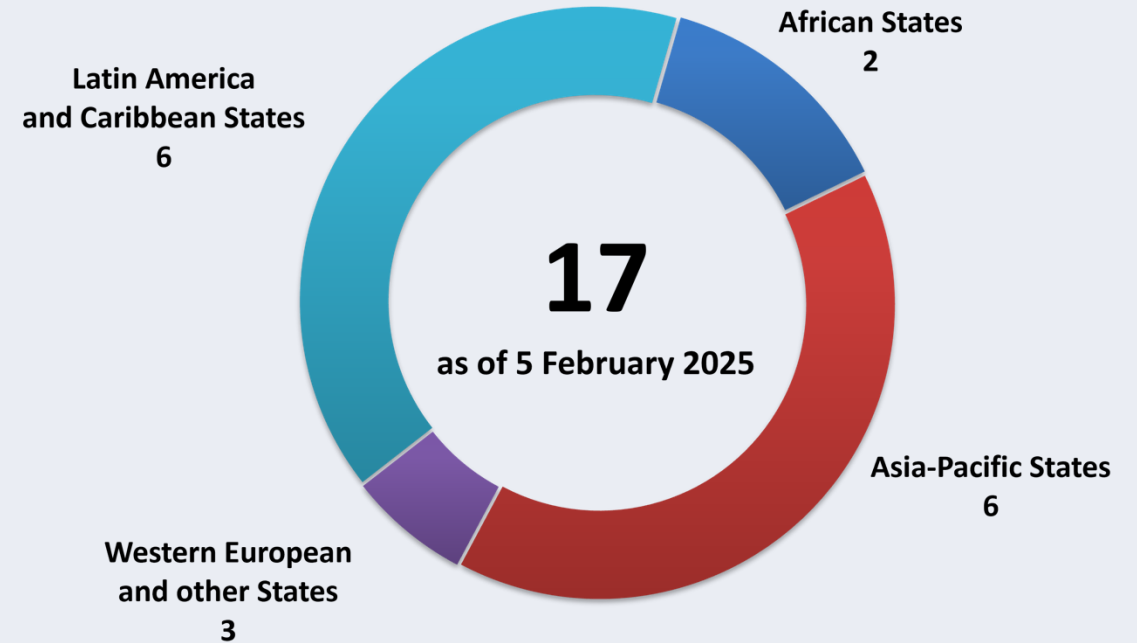
❖ A package of issues

❖ Cross-cutting issues

Current status of the BBNJ Agreement



Signatories



Ratifications

Immediate next steps ...



Preparatory Commission to prepare for the entry **into force** of the Agreement and the **convening of COP1**

2025: 14-25 April; 18-29 August

2026: at least one session



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

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

Lead up to Prep Com I (14-25 April)

- ❖ Online briefing by the Co-Chairs (December 2024)
- ❖ Advanced versions of documents available at <https://www.un.org/bbnjagreement/en>
- ❖ Upcoming online briefing by the Co-Chairs

DOALOS mandate



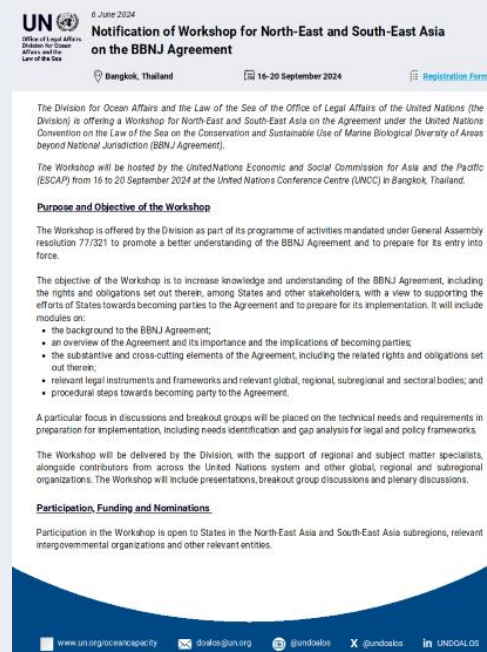
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- ❖ Perform secretariat functions under the Agreement until the secretariat to be established under the Agreement commences its functions (BBNJ Agreement, art.50; UNGA resolution 77/321)
- ❖ Provide assistance to the Preparatory Commission (UNGA resolution 78/272)
- ❖ Promote a better understanding of the Agreement and prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement (UNGA resolution 77/321)

Activities to promote a better understanding of the Agreement and prepare for its entry into force

- Capacity needs and priority assessments
- Regional workshops
- National technical assistance
- Briefings
- Side events
- Outreach materials (factsheets)
- Website for the Agreement
- DOALOS/UNEP InforMEA online course
- Project funded by the European Union

Visit: www.un.org/bbnjagreement



6 June 2024
Notification of Workshop for North-East and South-East Asia on the BBNJ Agreement

Bangkok, Thailand | 16-20 September 2024 | [Registration Form](#)

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (the Division) is offering a Workshop for North-East and South-East Asia on 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).

The Workshop will be hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) from 16 to 20 September 2024 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

Purpose and Objective of the Workshop

The Workshop is offered by the Division as part of its programme of activities mandated under General Assembly resolution 77/321 to promote a better understanding of the BBNJ Agreement and to prepare for its entry into force.

The objective of the Workshop is to increase knowledge and understanding of the BBNJ Agreement, including the rights and obligations set out therein, among States and other stakeholders, with a view to supporting the efforts of States towards becoming parties to the Agreement and to prepare for its implementation. It will include modules on:

- the background to the BBNJ Agreement;
- an overview of the Agreement and its importance and the implications of becoming parties;
- the substantive and cross-cutting elements of the Agreement, including the related rights and obligations set out therein;
- relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies; and
- procedural steps towards becoming party to the Agreement.

A particular focus in discussions and breakout groups will be placed on the technical needs and requirements in preparation for implementation, including needs identification and gap analysis for legal and policy frameworks.

The Workshop will be delivered by the Division, with the support of regional and subject matter specialists, alongside contributors from across the United Nations system and other global, regional and subregional organizations. The Workshop will include presentations, breakout group discussions and plenary discussions.

Participation, Funding and Nominations

Participation in the Workshop is open to States in the North-East Asia and South-East Asia subregions, relevant intergovernmental organizations and other relevant entities.

www.un.org/oceancapacity | doalos@un.org | @undalos | @undalos | @undalos | UNDOALOS

PROGRAMME

Opening (10 min)

- Mr. Vladimir Jares, Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations
- Mr. Andrew Christer Hume, International Waters Focal Area Coordinator, Global Environment Facility (GEF)

DOALOS programme of activities to promote a better understanding of the BBNJ Agreement and prepare for its entry into force (15 min)

- Ms. Charlotte Salpin, Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS

GEF enabling activities and ratification support (15 min)

- Mr. Andrew Christer Hume, International Waters Focal Area Coordinator, and Mr. Taylor Henshaw, Senior Environmental Specialist, GEF

Question and answers (30 min)

Closing (5 min)

10:00 - 2:30 PM
Room 4



Office of Legal Affairs
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global environment facility
UNEP WORLD BANK GROUP



Synergies between fisheries instruments and the BBNJ Agreement

10 July 2024
12:15 - 13:15 CET

Philippines Room
FAO Headquarters,
Rome, Italy

Join us for a side event at the 36th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI36) to discuss synergies between 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) and fisheries instruments, including the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), and build a better understanding of the Agreement and its relationship with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies in the fisheries sector

Scan the QR code for more information



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

“BBNJ deep dive series”

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/321, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (DOALOS) is organizing a series of online briefings to promote a better understanding of 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). Following an initial briefing providing an overview of the BBNJ Agreement, a series of “deep dive” thematic briefings is being held, covering the main substantive parts of the Agreement.

The briefings are offered in three languages – English, French and Spanish – and are held virtually through the Microsoft Teams platform. Registration links are made available in due course at: un.org/Depts/los/bbnj.html (accessible by scanning the QR code below).

<p>Marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits</p> <p>English: 6 March 2024 French: 7 March 2024 Spanish: 12 March 2024</p>	<p>Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas</p> <p>English: 2 April 2024 French: 4 April 2024 Spanish: 9 April 2024</p>
<p>Environmental impact assessments</p> <p>English: 7 May 2024 French: 8 May 2024 Spanish: 9 May 2024</p>	<p>Cross-cutting issues</p> <p>English: 4 June 2024 French: 5 June 2024 Spanish: 6 June 2024</p>
<p>Capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology</p> <p>English: 16 July 2024 French: 17 July 2024 Spanish: 18 July 2024</p>	<p>Recordings of the briefings are available on the temporary webpage of the BBNJ Agreement (Scan the QR code)</p> 

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Thank You



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