

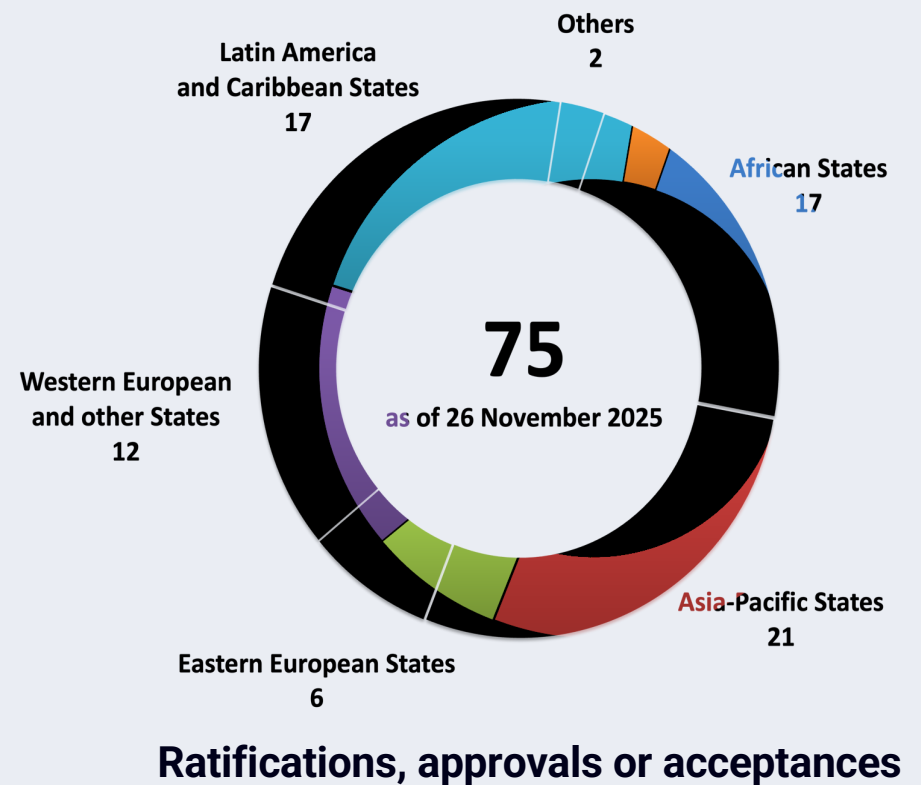
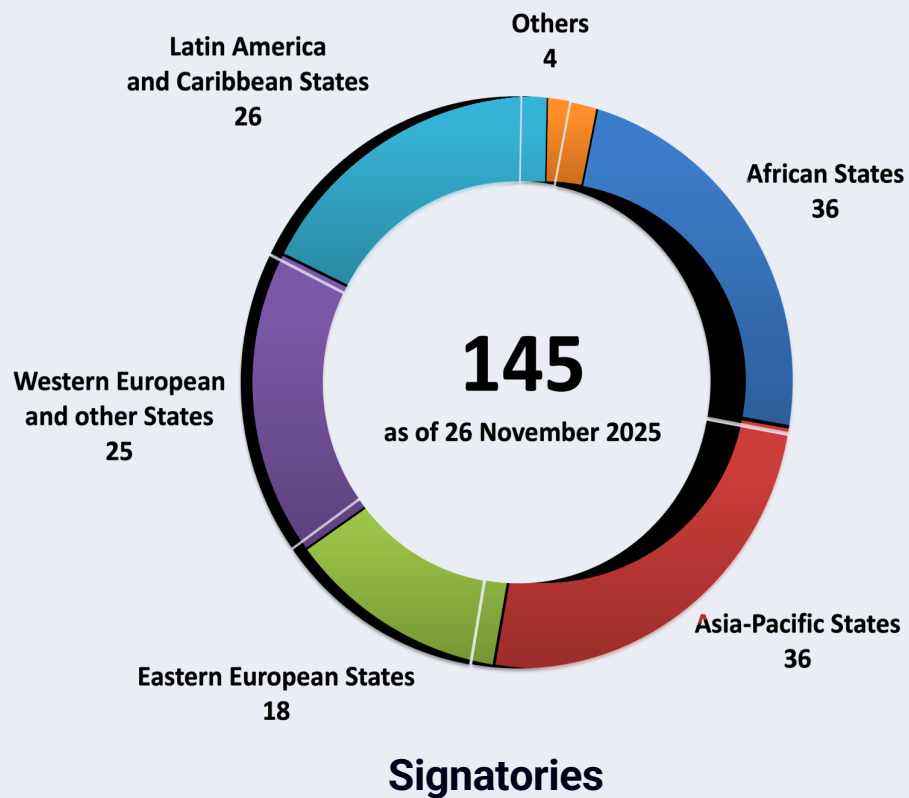
BBNJ Agreement

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

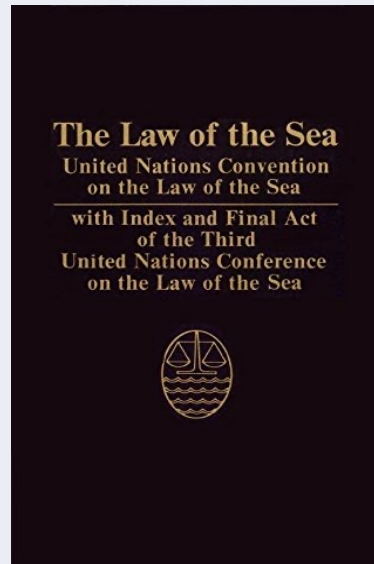
Overview

Charlotte Salpin
Senior Legal Officer
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, UN Office of Legal Affairs

Current status of the BBNJ Agreement



“UNCLOS family”

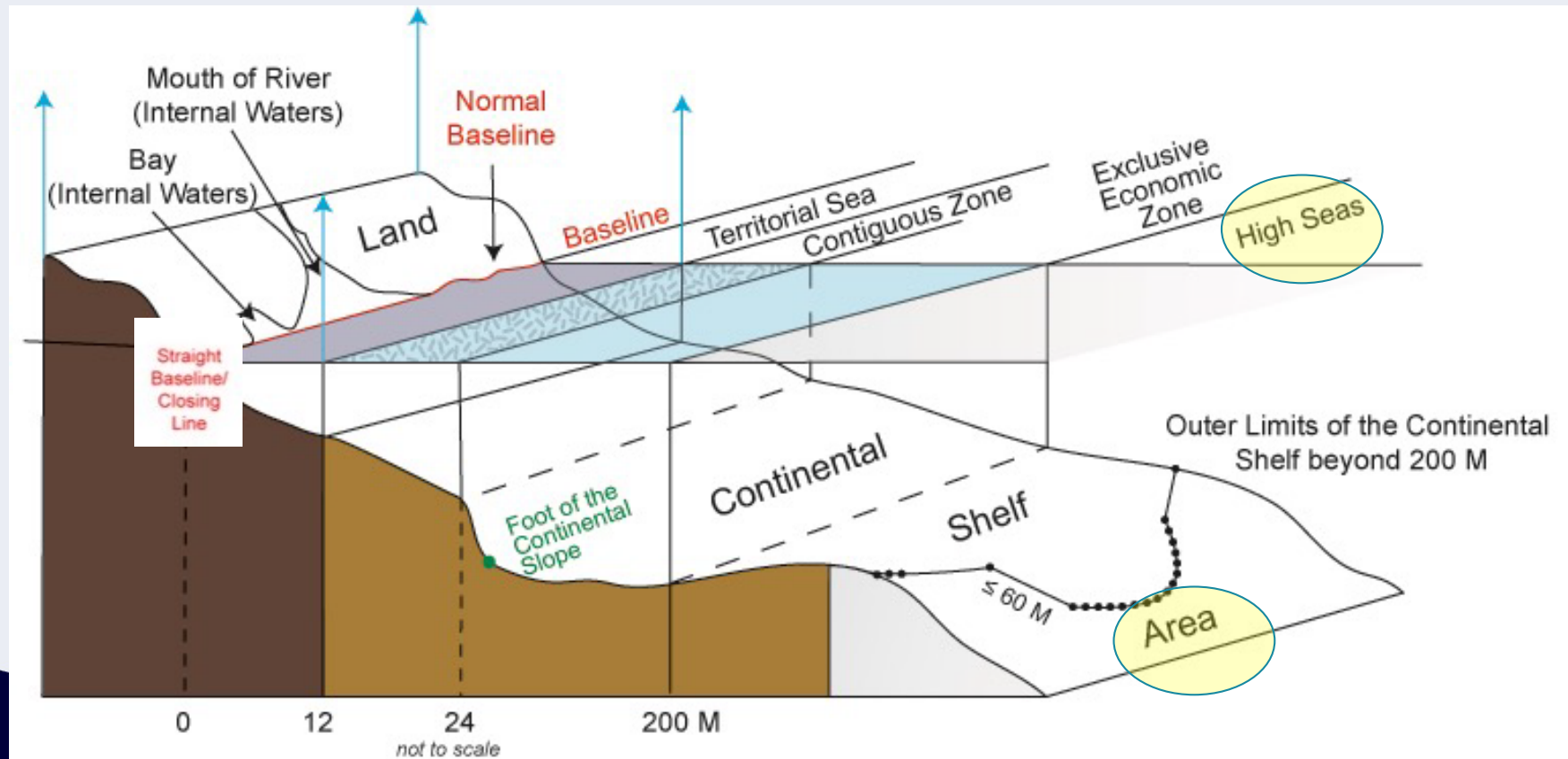


Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982

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

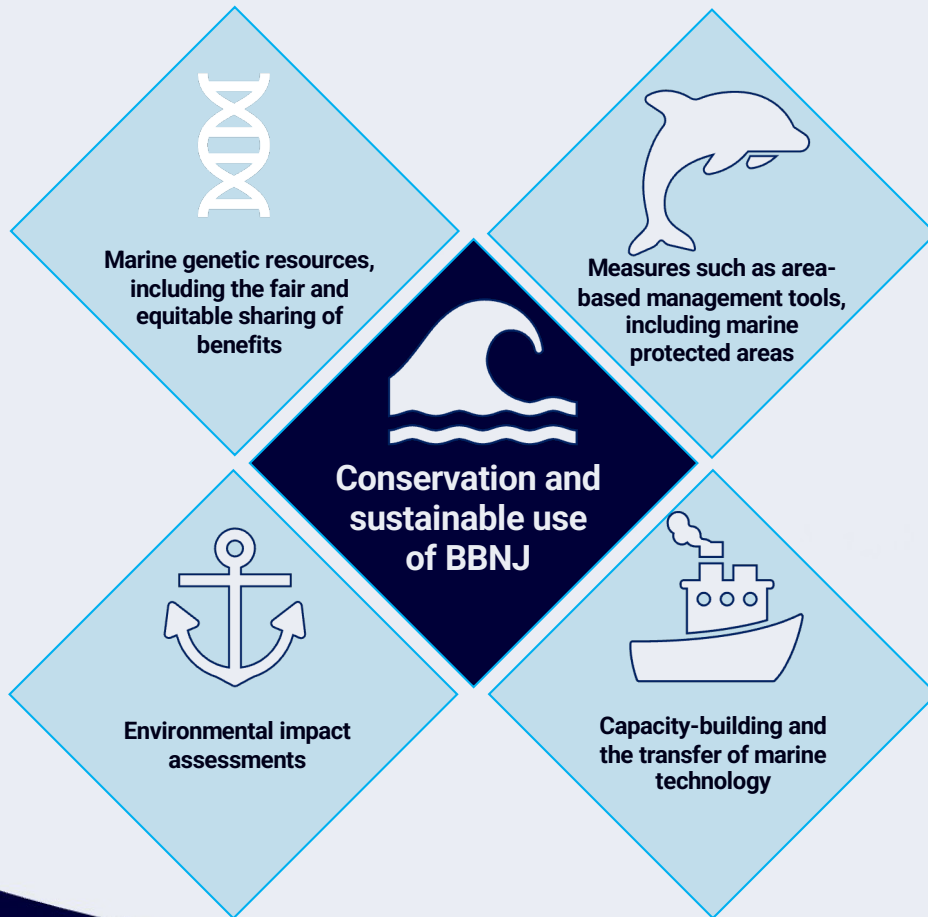
Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)

Maritime zones – overview



What is in the Agreement?

- Grounded in science
- A package of issues
- Cross-cutting issues/enabling provisions



General provisions



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

- Cooperate under the Agreement, including through strengthening and enhancing cooperation with and among relevant IFBs
- Endeavour to promote the objectives of the Agreement when participating in decision-making under other relevant IFBs

Institutional arrangements



Conference of the Parties (COP)



Secretariat



**Scientific and
Technical Body**



**Access and Benefit-
Sharing Committee**



**Clearing-
House
Mechanism**



**Implementation
and Compliance
Committee**



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



**Finance
Committee**

- Activities with respect to marine genetic resources (MGRs) and digital sequence information (DSI) on MGRs of ABNJ
- Generation of knowledge, scientific understanding and technological innovation
- Notifications (through CHM; batch identifier)
- Access to traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- Sharing of both monetary and non-monetary benefits
- Access and benefit-sharing committee



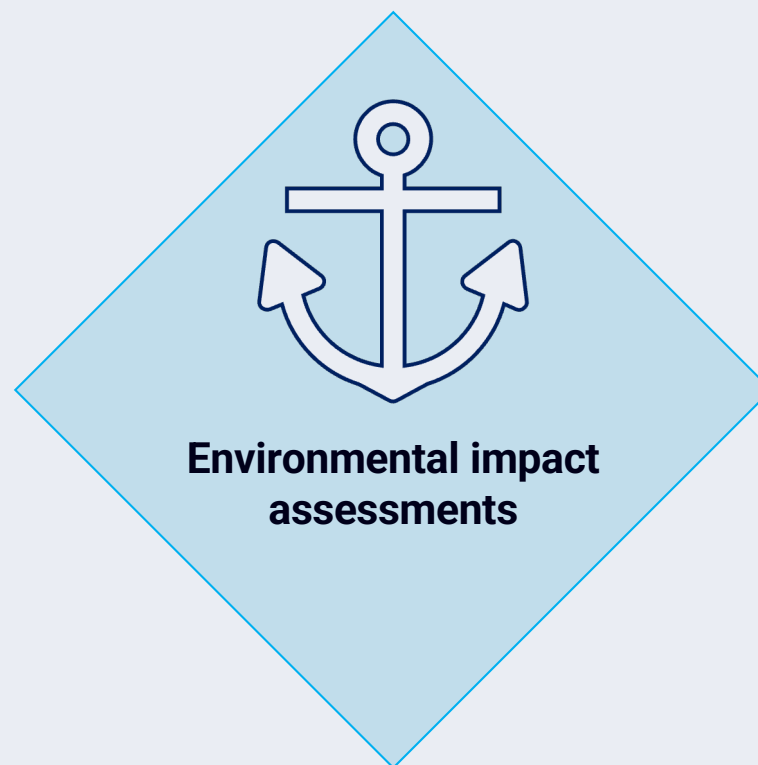
**Marine genetic resources,
including the fair and
equitable sharing of
benefits**



Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas

- A framework for the establishment, implementation and monitoring and review
- Indicative criteria for identification
- Publicity, consultations, assessments of proposals
- Scientific and Technical Body
- Monitoring and review

- Operationalization of UNCLOS provisions on environmental impact assessments (EIAs)
- Requirements for environmental impact assessments (EIAs)
- Public notification and consultation
- Development of standards and/or guidelines
- Roster of experts

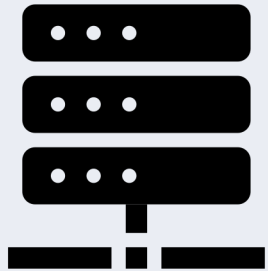




**Capacity-building
and the transfer of
marine technology**

- Obligation to cooperate in capacity-building (CB) and transfer of marine technology (TMT)
- Objective: develop marine scientific and technological capacity
- Modalities for CB&TMT
- Indicative list of types of CB&TMT
- Monitoring and review
- CB&TMT Committee

Clearing-House Mechanism

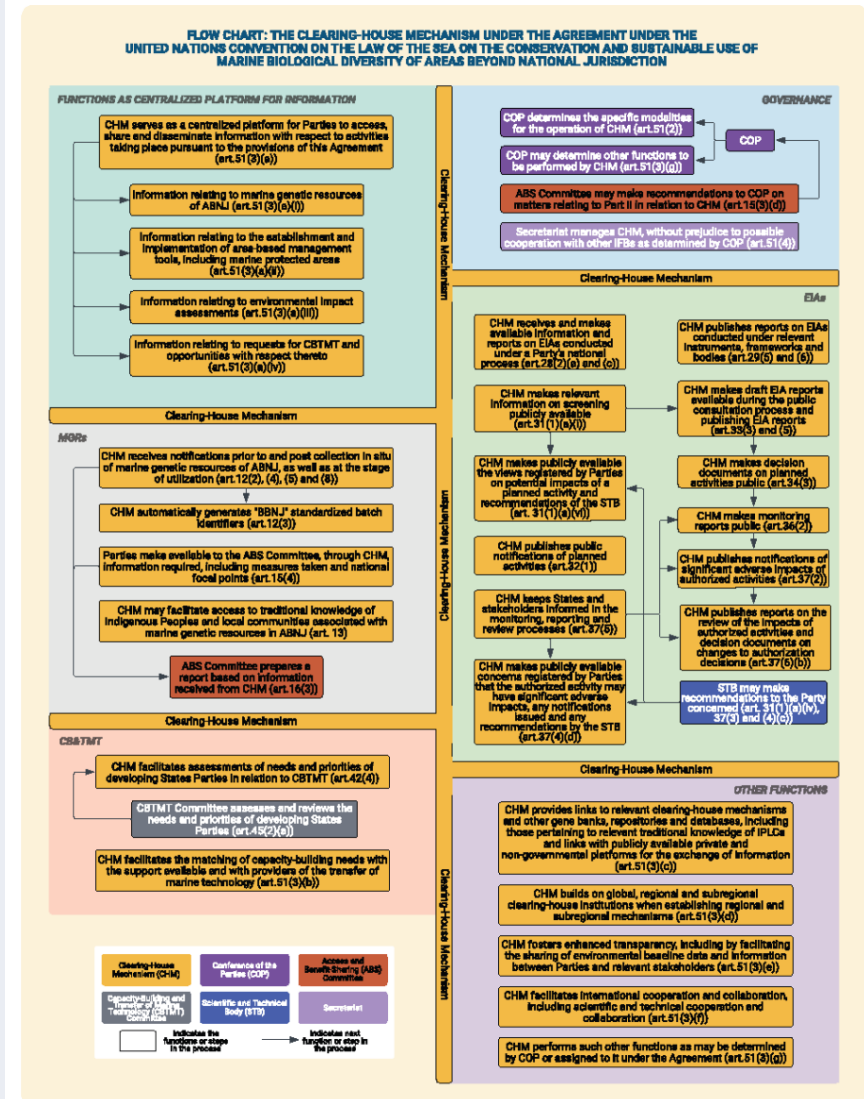


- Serve as a **centralized platform to disseminate information** on activities taking place pursuant to the Agreement
- **Facilitate matching** of capacity-building needs with support and providers for the transfer of marine technology
- **Provide links** to other clearing-house mechanisms, repositories and databases
- **Build on** global, regional and subregional clearing-house institutions
- Foster enhanced **transparency**
- Facilitate **international cooperation and collaboration**
- Perform other functions as determined or assigned

Clearing-House Mechanism



bitly



Way forward ...



Entry into force: 17 January 2026



First meeting of the Conference of the Parties: to be convened by the UN Secretary-General no later than one year after the entry into force of the Agreement

DOALOS to perform interim secretariat functions

<https://www.un.org/bbnjagreement/en>

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**
- **Open** to all UN Member States, members of the specialized agencies and parties to UNCLOS, as well as observers
- **Meetings:** 2 sessions held in **2025** + at least one session in **2026** (23 March – 2 April)
- **Decision-making:** after 20 September 2025, the taking of decisions by the Commission shall only be by States and regional economic integration organizations that have signed the Agreement or have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Agreement

BBNJ Prep Com Programme of Work

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

Thank You



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