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

Support from DOALOS

Amber Maggio, Legal Officer, UN DOALOS/OLA
Workshop on BBNJ for CPLP Countries
Lisbon, Portugal

13-15 May 2024
Funding

• Assessed contributions
• A voluntary trust fund
• A special fund
• The Global Environment Facility (GEF) trust fund
• COP may consider the possibility to establish additional funds to finance rehabilitation and ecological restoration
• An initial resources mobilization goal through to 2030
Implementation and Compliance

Parties to the Agreement to:
• Take measures to implement the Agreement
• Report on the Implementation to the Conference of the Parties
  - Format and frequency of the reports to be determined by the Conference of the Parties

Implementation and Compliance Committee:
• Facilitative in nature
• Functioning in a transparent, non-adversarial, non-punitive manner
  o Consider issues of implementation at the generic and individual levels,
  o Report periodically and,
  o Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
Dispute settlement

- Obligation to cooperate to prevent disputes and to settle disputes by peaceful means

Parties to UNCLOS

- Procedure accepted pursuant to article 287 of UNCLOS shall apply to the settlement of disputes under the Agreement
- Possibility to make a different choice of procedure

Non-Parties to UNCLOS

- Free to choose one or more of the procedures set out in art. 287
  - By means of a declaration to the depositary
United Nations Secretariat – Office of Legal Affairs

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS/OLA)

Secretariat to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Interim secretariat in relation to BBNJ Agreement

Secretarial support to General Assembly processes (Informal Consultative Process, Regular Process, resolutions)

Capacity-building & trust funds

Fellowships and trainings

Outreach and publications

UN-Oceans Focal Point
Capacity-building

• Needs-based projects to assist in the building of capacity and reinforcing of approaches to the sustainable management of ocean spaces, resources and activities
• Beneficiary-driven training courses, technical cooperation and advice
• Ocean governance studies, tailored training on topics such as ocean governance, the science-policy interface, oceans and climate change, sustainable ocean-based economies (blue economy)
• Programme of activities to promote a better understanding of the BBNJ Agreement and prepare for its entry into force

www.un.org/oceancapacity
@UNDOALOS
Next steps & role of DOALOS

- 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
- Entry into force and convening of COP-1
Moving forward...

Preparatory Commission

- Established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/272
- Organizational meeting 24-26 June at UNHQ
- Open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Organizational matters, including the election of the Co-Chairs and a Bureau of the commission, the dates of the meetings of the commission and the programme of work of the commission
- BBNJ Trust Fund for future meetings
DOALOS/GEF capacity-building and technical assistance needs survey

- Improve understanding of the BBNJ Agreement among government officials
- Technical assistance with national law/regulation/policy
- Preparation of government agencies for entry into force
- Interest in activities relating to key issues under the Agreement, as well as financial resources and mechanism
- ASAP, streamlined and building on previous activities
- Activities at national and regional levels, along with substantive support
Promoting a better understanding of the Agreement and preparing for entry into force

- Capacity needs and priority assessments
- Regional workshops
- National technical assistance
- Briefings
- Side events
- Outreach materials
- Website for the Agreement (interim)
- Project funded by the European Union
How to access support?

doalos@un.org

https://www.un.org/depts/los/bbnj.htm or
www.un.org/oceancapacity and the soon to be launched
www.un.org/bbnjagreement
Capacity needs discussion: Guiding questions

• Quais são as respetivas prioridades nacionais em termos de capacitação no que respeita ao BBNJ?

• Em que áreas do BBNJ seria necessário um apoio mais premente em termos de capacitação?

• Indique eventuais sugestões no que respeita à futura capacitação e/ou assistência técnica a atividades a desenvolver no âmbito do Acordo.
Thank You