

Annex I to the 2024 UN-Oceans Programme of Work

Statement of commitments in relation to 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

The secretariats of the organizations participating in the meeting of UN-Oceans held at the principals' level on 16 January 2024 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),

Being mindful of the objective of the BBNJ Agreement to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long term, through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and further international cooperation and coordination,

Underscoring the importance of ensuring, in a coherent and cooperative manner and within the existing mandate of each entity, common messaging, efficient use of resources, and avoidance of gaps and duplication in the support provided to States and regional economic integration organizations in their efforts to become parties to the BBNJ Agreement and, when the Agreement has entered into force, in relation to its implementation,

1. *Emphasize* their commitment to the goals of UN-Oceans of strengthening and promoting coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities in the context of the promotion of a better understanding of the the BBNJ Agreement and preparations for its entry into force and, once in force, its implementation, building on the work carried out by UN-Oceans members under the Convention and relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies;
2. *Commit* to working closely together with the support of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, acting as the interim secretariat for the Agreement and UN-Oceans focal point, including in the context of the promotion of a better understanding of the the BBNJ Agreement and preparations for its entry into force;
3. *Commit* to regularly sharing, including in the context of UN-Oceans meetings, information on their planned and ongoing activities related to the BBNJ Agreement, within the framework of their respective mandates, with a view to identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy;
4. *Undertake* to further enhance inter-agency information exchange in relation to the BBNJ Agreement, including sharing of experiences, best practices, tools and methodologies and lessons learned;
5. *Request* the UN-Oceans focal point to include a standing item on the BBNJ Agreement on the agenda of all UN-Oceans meetings in 2024 with a view to facilitating information sharing in relation to the Agreement and related activities;
6. *Commit* to considering organizing joint activities aimed at supporting States and regional economic integration organizations in relation to the BBNJ Agreement and its complementarity with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies.