



## Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

### UN-Oceans side event

Thursday, 24 October 2024, 16.30 – 17.50, GRULAC Room, Plaza One

### Programme

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| <b>Opening remarks</b>                               | <p><b>Stephen Mathias (or representative)</b><br/>Acting Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel;<br/>and UN-Oceans Focal Point</p> <p><b>Ms. Astrid Schomaker</b><br/>Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat</p>  |
| <b>Framing discussion<br/>and introduction</b>       | <b>Emma Heslop, Programme Specialist, Ocean Observations and Services Section (IOC-UNESCO)</b>   |
| <b>Panel I</b><br>(presentations<br>followed by Q&A) | <p><b>UN-Oceans members and the GBF: <i>Looking towards implementation</i></b></p>   |
|  | <p><b>Milena Benavides Serrato, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible<br/>Dirección de Asuntos Marinos, Costeros y Recursos Acuáticos</b></p> <p><b>Ocean and Climate Dialogue 2024: Key Takeaways and Colombia's Role and Contributions</b></p> <p><i>Colombia leads Latin America in low-carbon development by establishing targets and minimum measures for carbon neutrality and climate resilience, recognizing the importance of marine and coastal ecosystems for climate change adaptation and mitigation, given its privileged position with 45% of its territory spanning two oceans. Currently, strategies are being implemented that combine the mitigation of threats and the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity to enhance climate change resilience, as well as for carbon storage and sequestration.</i></p>   |
|  | <p><b>Susan Gardner, Director, Ecosystems Division at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</b></p> <p><b>Harnessing Synergies for Ocean Protection: Accelerating Collective Action for a Sustainable Future</b></p> <p><i>The speech emphasizes the critical importance of collaboration across the UN system to address the interconnected challenges of ocean conservation and biodiversity protection. It highlights the need for synergistic approaches that optimize the use of limited resources and drive more effective outcomes. The speech showcases examples like the Regional Seas Programme and UNEP's various platforms, such as the Global Environment Monitoring System for oceans, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, and MPAth, which provide essential tools for collaboration, tracking progress, and enabling countries to act effectively. It underscores the urgency of securing financing and incorporating natural capital approaches into decision-making, to accelerate the implementation of the GBF.</i></p> |
|  | <p><b>Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>CITES contributions to GBF implementation: towards effective conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity</b></p>  |



*The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to ensure that international trade in species listed in the CITES Appendices is legal, sustainable, and traceable. CITES contributes to the implementation of the GBF, including Targets 4, 5, and 9, by ensuring that international trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species and provides sustainable livelihoods. The presentation will explore how CITES contributes to the implementation of the GBF, highlighting experiences and lessons learned regarding trade of CITES-listed marine species, including from areas beyond national jurisdiction. It will also emphasize how strategic partnerships and capacity building enhance these efforts to conserve marine biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use.*

**Jose Dallo, Director, Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources (OEMMR), International Seabed Authority (ISA)**

**Thinking deeper, together: harnessing opportunities for deep-sea science and capacity development**

*The presentation will provide an overview of ISA's contributions to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, focusing on the deep-sea scientific research and capacity-development activities of ISA. It will introduce and present opportunities to engage in ISA initiatives on enhancing deep-sea biodiversity knowledge, standardizing and sharing environmental data, and developing the capacity of developing countries, particularly women scientists. These will also provide an important contribution to monitoring the Framework related to deep-sea biodiversity. In this context, potential synergies and complementarities with other UN Oceans members will be highlighted to ensure a coherent and complementary approach.*

**Kim Friedman, Senior Fishery Resources Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

**FAO's 'Blue Transformation' supports States across the biodiversity-climate nexus**

*Around 3,600 aquatic species are caught in the wild or farmed. This unique diversity makes aquatic systems highly resilient and adaptable to change. Fisheries and aquaculture therefore play a crucial role in advancing the international biodiversity and climate objectives. FAO's Blue Transformation outlines a vision to expand aquatic food systems while increasing their contribution of capture fisheries, aquaculture, and value chains to nutritious and affordable healthy diets for the most vulnerable, while fostering equitable growth. This vision is aligned with the GBF, emphasizing sustainable management, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity conservation as key goals for the aquaculture and fisheries sectors. It is paving the way to ensure that this growth is sustainable. Upscaling, accelerating, and replicating the actions outlined in the Blue Transformation roadmap will be key to further promote equitable benefits, balancing biodiversity conservation with ecosystem use.*

**Charlotte Salpin, Senior Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations (OLA/DOALOS)**

**Synergies between the GBF and the BBNJ Agreement**

*This presentation will focus on the synergies between the BBNJ Agreement and KMGBF, with a focus on the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus. It will highlight the shared objectives of the two instruments, synergies in the measures and tools thereunder, and opportunities for enhanced cooperation and coordination between them. It will also touch upon the role of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in underpinning these synergies, and the contribution of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement in contributing to their objectives.*



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|  | <p><b>Emma Heslop, Programme Specialist, Ocean Observations and Services Section (IOC-UNESCO)</b></p> <p><b>The importance of ocean observations to support GBF implementation</b></p>  |
|  | <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Panel II</b><br/>(presentations followed by Q&amp;A)</p> | <p><b><i>Stakeholders' contributions to and expectations from the GBF</i></b></p>   |
|  | <p><b>Ronald Rodriguez, Programme Officer at the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), Philippines</b></p> <p><b>Towards a Small-Scale Fisheries-Inclusive Implementation of KM-GBF</b></p> <p><i>Small-scale fisheries (SSF) are strategically positioned to contribute to effective, whole-of-society approaches to conserving inland, coastal, and marine biodiversity. Recognising the role of SSF as stewards of biodiversity is critical to achieving the objectives of the KM-GBF. The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VGSSF) intersect with the KM-GBF on several levels; aligning National Plans of Action for SSF (under the VGSSF) with the KM-GBF can help countries achieve their biodiversity targets.</i></p>  |
|  | <p><b>Jeremy Raguain, Advisor, Republic of Seychelles</b></p> <p><b>Levers to Support Small Island Developing States in Being Ocean-Biodiversity-Climate Nexus Champions</b></p> <p><i>Despite, and indeed because of, their special circumstances - small land areas and populations, remoteness, limited capacity, and high vulnerability to global economic shocks and climate change—Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have consistently sought synergies across the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus. As custodians of vital marine and terrestrial biodiversity, which is integral to their livelihoods, culture, and identity, SIDS have demonstrated global leadership in these areas. Notably, nine of the 14 parties to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement are SIDS, exemplifying their role as proactive, first-mover states across multiple international frameworks. However, various procedural and substantive challenges hinder the ability of SIDS and other nations to fulfill their commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). UN-Oceans is uniquely positioned to activate levers that may enable SIDS and other states to advance efforts across the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus. In this talk, I will outline my thoughts on potential levers to facilitate these efforts, focusing on four ideas: 1) Mindful scheduling, 2) Joint knowledge production, 3) Prioritizing equity, and 4) Unlocking capacity building.</i></p> |
|  | <p><b>Nonhle Mbuthuma, Environmental Human Rights Defender and 2024 Goldman Prize Winner</b></p> <p><i>All big developments that are introduced on our communal land and in our ocean would result in a huge loss of biodiversity and also result in loss of culture. These factors will upset the harmonious balance that currently exists, undermine the food security and community cohesion and have severe impact on the way of life. The climate catastrophe impacting worse those vulnerable communities. The rights to nature must be put as an obligation for everyone.</i></p>  |
|  | <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>   |
| <b>Closing session</b>   | <b>Closing remarks by Moderator</b>   |