



BBNJ meeting, New York, 25 March to 5 April 2019

5.7 Strategic environmental assessments (SEA)

We support including in the instrument provisions on strategic environmental assessments, with a SEA definition to be included in the definitions part.

We think this is important. It offers a number of benefits.

- First, it supports integrated management and decisions on area-based management tools. It is a forward-looking way to address how ocean space may be used and to cover cumulative impacts. It is in some way a link between EIAs and ABMTs.
- Second, it is also an efficient means for doing EIAs where there are multiple activities in a particular geographic area. Rather than multiple actors doing multiple EIAs for the same or different activities, you could have a single strategic environmental assessment.

We are open to further developing the text here, building on Option I.

But we think it would involve the following three concepts:

- States consider the use of strategic environmental assessments where multiple activities take place in the same geographic area, or multiple actors undertake the same activity in the same geographic area.
- Strategic environmental assessments may be used to inform area-based management tools.
- States shall cooperate with each other, bilaterally or through regional, sectoral or global bodies, in the conduct of SEAs.