



General Assembly

Distr: General
6 January 2023

Original: English

Intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument 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

Resumed fifth session

New York, 20 February–3 March 2023

Information for participants

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/248](#), the resumed fifth session of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument 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, convened under the auspices of the United Nations pursuant to resolution [72/249](#) to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee established in resolution [69/292](#) on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 20 February to 3 March 2023.

2. In accordance with resolution [72/249](#), the conference will address the topics identified in the package agreed in 2011, namely, the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

II. Secretariat

3. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as Secretary-General of the conference.



4. Support and secretariat services are provided by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, which can be reached by email at doalos@un.org.

III. Participation

5. Pursuant to resolution [72/249](#), the conference shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the Convention.

6. Also pursuant to resolution [72/249](#), the following entities or organizations are entitled to participate as observers are entitled to participate in the conference in the capacity of observer:

(a) Organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly pursuant to its relevant resolutions to participate, in the capacity of observer, in its sessions and work;

(b) Interested global and regional intergovernmental organizations and other interested international bodies that were invited to participate in any of the following conferences and summits:

- (i) World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- (ii) United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
- (iii) previous United Nations conferences on sustainable development of small island developing States, held in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa;
- (iv) United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;
- (v) Review Conference on the 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;
- (vi) United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

(c) Relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those that were accredited to the following conferences and summits:

- (i) World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- (ii) United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
- (iii) previous United Nations conferences on sustainable development of small island developing States, held in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa;
- (iv) United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

(d) The following associate members of regional commissions: American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Saint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands;

(e) Relevant specialized agencies, as well as other organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system.

IV. Credentials

7. As indicated in the notes verbales convening the resumed fifth session, dated 6 December 2022, States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the Convention that wish to participate in the resumed fifth session of the conference and did not previously submit credentials for the fifth session are kindly invited to deliver their credentials to the Office of Legal Affairs, located on the 36th floor of the Secretariat Building. The credentials shall be issued by either the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

8. A scanned copy of the credentials, as well as other communications containing the names of representatives to the resumed fifth session (such as letters and notes verbales from the Permanent Missions), should only be submitted through the online e-Credentials module, which is accessible through the e-deleGATE platform (<https://edelegate.un.int>) by opening the drop-down menu under the Conference tab and selecting “BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference”. Email submissions of scanned copies of credentials will not be accepted. Questions should be emailed to ecredentials@un.org.

9. Delegations that wish to update previously submitted credentials are also requested to follow the same procedure.

V. Registration

10. Information on registration modalities for the issuance of grounds passes to ensure access to United Nations Headquarters for States and other entities entitled to participate in the conference is provided on the conference website (www.un.org/bbnj/content/credentials-registration).

VI. List of participants

11. The conference secretariat will compile a list of participants and make it available on the conference website.

12. For the purpose of preparing the list of participants in the fifth session, including the resumed fifth session, Permanent Missions are kindly requested to enter the names of additional members of their delegations participating in the resumed fifth session of the conference into the e-List of participants module on the e-deleGATE platform by 6 February 2023. The list of participants will already contain the names of delegates entered for the fifth session in August 2022. If delegations wish to make changes to the titles or roles of delegates that were already entered, they should communicate the requested changes by email to denise.ward@un.org, with copy to doalos@un.org.

13. Representatives of organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, of interested global and regional intergovernmental organizations and other interested international bodies, of associate members of regional commissions, and of relevant specialized agencies, as well as other organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system participating in the conference, are kindly requested to communicate the composition of their delegations to the secretariat (the

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs) by email to Bingzhuo Li at bingzhuo.li@un.org, with copy to doalos@un.org and denise.ward@un.org.

14. The list of participants from NGOs will be based on the information provided through the registration form on Indico.

VII. Documentation and statements

15. The agenda and the provisional programme of work for the meeting, as well as other working documents, will be made available in all official languages on the website of the conference (www.un.org/bbnj). Delegations are encouraged to bring their own mobile devices to download and view the relevant documentation. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management will provide documents-on-demand services (e.g. printing of documents and assistance with access to online services) through the Documents Assistance Centre (Secretariat Building, room S-1B-032).

16. Delegations are invited to submit their statements in PDF format by email to estatements@un.org. When sending statements, delegations should indicate the name of the meeting, the date of delivery and the speaker in the subject line of the email and in the heading of the statement. The statement should be submitted well in advance of the meeting but no later than two hours before delivery, and should not be submitted in hard copy. Statements submitted by email should appear in the eStatements part of the meeting announcement in the Journal of the United Nations. Delegations should indicate in the subject line and in the body of the email whether the statement is for the use of interpreters only or should also be posted online. The statements will remain embargoed until their delivery. The eStatements services are only available for the duration of the meeting. Statements submitted after 3 March 2023 will not be posted on eStatements.

17. Permanent Missions may submit their statements in PDF format by email to the secretariat at doalos@un.org to be posted on a dedicated page of the conference website. When submitting statements to the secretariat, delegations should identify themselves and indicate the name of the meeting, the agenda item and sub-item to which the statement relates (e.g. informal informals on environmental impact assessments) and the date of delivery, as appropriate, in the subject line of the email and in the heading of the statement.

VIII. Interpretation

18. The official languages of the conference are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

19. Statements made in the plenary in any official language will be interpreted into the other official languages. It is essential that delegations provide the interpreters with a written text of their statements by emailing them to estatements@un.org well in advance of the meeting but no later than two hours before delivery, in order to assure the quality of the interpretation. Speakers are requested to deliver the statement at a speed that facilitates simultaneous interpretation (100 to 120 words per minute).

20. Any speaker may also make a statement in a language other than the official languages. In such cases, in accordance with rule 53 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the delegation in question must provide either an interpreter to interpret from the non-official language into an official language, or a written text of the statement in one of the official languages to be read out by a United Nations interpreter. The interpretation or the written text will be considered by the Secretariat as representing

the official text of the statement and will be used by the United Nations interpreters as the basis for interpretation into the other official languages. When a written text is provided, the delegation concerned should make available to the interpreter someone who knows the language in which the statement is to be delivered and the official language into which it has been translated, to guide the interpreter through the translated text and ensure synchronization between the speaker and the interpreter. Detailed arrangements for interpretation from non-official languages, including access by non-United Nations interpreters to the interpreters' booths in conference rooms, must be made in advance to the Meetings Management Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management by telephone (212 963 8114) or email (gmeets@un.org).

IX. Security arrangements

Department of Safety and Security

Security Operations Centre

21. The Security Operations Centre operates on a 24-hour basis and can be contacted by telephone (212 963 6666) for all access requests or any general enquiries. The Centre will handle queries concerning lost and found items after 5 p.m.

22. The Centre is staffed with security and fire safety personnel. For fire or medical emergencies, first dial 911 (9-911 from a United Nations telephone) and then dial 212 963 5555 (3-5555 from a United Nations telephone).

23. In addition to providing security and safety services on a 24-hour basis at Headquarters, the Security and Safety Service issues grounds passes, which members of delegations may obtain between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. from the Pass and Identification Unit, located on the ground floor of the FF Building at 320 East 45th Street, further to authorization by the Protocol and Liaison Service.

General information

24. In the interest of ensuring the safety of all concerned, members of delegations, staff members, accredited representatives of NGOs, and the press and affiliates will no doubt appreciate the importance of maintaining the integrity of United Nations-issued identification because of the access it allows.

25. Members of delegations, as with every other authorized pass holder, are reminded that the identification issued to them by the United Nations is solely for their individual use and that it should not be transferred or given to any other person to use. United Nations identification found to be used in any manner other than that for which it was intended will be confiscated by security personnel.

26. Staff members, members of delegations and other persons who are entitled to access to the premises will be admitted to Headquarters only upon presentation of valid United Nations identification cards. All persons holding such cards are reminded that, in accordance with Secretary-General's bulletin [ST/SGB/259](#), identification cards must be worn at all times in a clearly visible manner while on the premises. It is each card holder's responsibility to ensure that cards are current.

Lost and Found Office

27. The Lost and Found Office is located in the General Assembly Building in room GA-1B-052. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be contacted by telephone at 212 963 7531 (3-1852 from a United Nations telephone).

X. Media access arrangements and services

28. Media representatives in possession of a valid United Nations grounds pass will be allowed to cover the conference without additional accreditation, within the limits of allowed room capacity. All others will be asked to apply for accreditation in advance of the conference. Media accreditation is reserved strictly for members of the press (print, photo, radio, television, film, news agencies and online media) who represent a bona fide media organization. Applicants are required to complete an online form, available at <https://indico.un.org/UNHQ/#media>. All members of the media who submit a registration form will be required to upload a letter of assignment from their Bureau Chief or Editor-in-Chief addressed to the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit. Two pieces of identification bearing a photograph, including a passport, are also required. Samples of work may be requested.

29. All members of the media corps accompanying the delegation must apply for accreditation as described above, unless the Permanent Mission concerned applies on their behalf through the e-Registration module, accessible through the e-deleGATE platform. Missions should apply for a media pass on behalf of the official photographers and videographers.

30. Approved media members will receive confirmation by email with instructions for picking up their United Nations grounds pass. All media representatives will be required to wear their United Nations grounds pass at all times.

31. Details regarding media access to the Secretariat of the United Nations, liaison services for coverage of open meetings, press conferences and briefings are available at www.un.org/malu.

32. A list of open intergovernmental meetings, press briefings/conferences and other outreach activities at United Nations Headquarters is posted daily at www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/alert.shtml.

33. Requests for statements, reports and other related documents should be directed to the Media Documents Centre at mdc@un.org.

34. Media members requiring assistance or escort to meeting rooms should visit the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit, on the 2nd floor of the Secretariat Building (S-250).

35. All media representatives will be required to present a valid United Nations grounds pass to the United Nations security officers at the gate. The designated press entrance is located at 46th Street and First Avenue.

36. Media representatives are advised to arrive early to allow sufficient time for screening.

37. In an effort to ensure a safe work environment for everyone, proof of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination is required for all accredited media personnel who wish to enter Headquarters. A pass will only be issued upon verification of vaccination status. Accredited media personnel are required to follow all United Nations Headquarters protocols and abide by risk mitigation measures.

United Nations audiovisual materials

38. Photographs in digital format (JPG) will be available for download free of charge on the United Nations photo website (<https://dam.media.un.org>). Further photo enquiries should be directed to the United Nations Photo Library (photolib@un.org).

39. Requests for videos (MPEG2 and MPEG4 (H.264)) should be directed to the United Nations Audiovisual Library (avlibrary@un.org).

40. United Nations Television and Video will provide live pool coverage of the conference's public meetings and official press briefings. Live television feeds will be available through commercial carriers (see www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/pdf/UNTV_Transmission_Guide.pdf). Requests for additional information should be directed to United Nations Television and Video (by email at untv@un.org; in person in room GA-1B-55; or by telephone at 212 963 7650, 212 963 7667 or 212 963 9399). A detailed schedule of live and playback coverage will be made available to broadcast clients in advance.

41. United Nations Web TV (<https://media.un.org/en/webtv/>) will provide live and on-demand streaming coverage, in all six official languages (when interpretation is available) for all open meetings of the resumed fifth session.

United Nations press release coverage

42. The Department of Global Communications will provide press release coverage of public meetings of the conference in English (www.un.org/press/en/highlights/BBNJ) and French (www.un.org/press/fr/highlights/BBNJ). Further queries on press releases should be directed to the Meetings Coverage Section by email to english_press@un.org and french_press@un.org.

Briefings and news conferences

43. Notices of press conferences by the President of the conference will be available from www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/alert.shtml. Delegations can book press conferences by calling the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General (212 963 7707 or 212 963 7160).

XI. Accessibility services for persons with disabilities

44. The United Nations Accessibility Centre offers assistive information and communications technology to support persons with auditory, visual and/or physical impairments. The assistive devices are available on-site or as a loan to participants with disabilities. The Accessibility Centre is located in the Conference Building (level 1B, by the Secretariat Building escalators). More information is available at www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/accessibility.

XII. Greening the conference

45. The United Nations is taking a number of measures to minimize the environmental impact and maximize the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the conference. All participants are encouraged to contribute to sustainability efforts.

46. Participants are encouraged to bring reusable bottles/mugs and avoid using disposable cups and plastic water bottles.

47. Participants are encouraged to use portable devices as the main way to view conference documentation in order to reduce paper consumption. All pre-conference and in-session documentation will be made available on the conference website in a timely manner.

XIII. General considerations in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and medical services

48. As a condition of entry to the Headquarters complex, all participants confirm (by swiping their United Nations-issued identification card) that they have not had symptoms of or been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the preceding five days or, for those who are not up to date with vaccinations, that they have not had a close contact in the preceding five days. Further information regarding quarantine and isolation is available at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html. International travellers are required to have met local incoming travel requirements related to COVID-19. Details for incoming travellers are available at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/noncitizens-US-air-travel.html#anchor_1634928804881.

49. Participants are encouraged to take regular preventive measures, such as following cough etiquette and regular handwashing, and are strictly encouraged not to attend a meeting if they are unwell or have a fever, cough or respiratory symptoms. The use of face masks in common spaces at United Nations Headquarters is strongly recommended.

50. All participants who are unwell should immediately leave the complex and seek medical support from an external provider. Any participant who becomes ill with COVID-19-like symptoms or who tests positive for COVID-19 after attending an event at the United Nations complex is strongly encouraged to notify their head of delegation or Permanent Mission, who will determine, according to their own protocols, whether this information is to be shared with other participants. There is no requirement for participants to notify the United Nations medical services.

51. Participants with any other illness are encouraged to see a local physician for care, but they may seek first aid from the Headquarters medical clinic on the 5th floor of the Secretariat Building (telephone: 212 963 7090) for minor physical injuries. Delegations may send medical enquiries by email to unhqclinic@un.org.

XIV. Cafeteria services

52. The current hours of the operation for the café locations at Headquarters are:

- Lobby Café (Secretariat Building, 1st floor): 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
- Vienna Café (General Assembly Building, 1st basement): 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Riverview Café (Conference Building, 4th floor): 11.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- North Delegates Lounge (Conference Building, 2nd floor): 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (access limited to delegates and staff who can pass through second-floor turnstiles with their guests)

XV. Additional information

53. Additional information will be issued if the need arises to update and expand the information contained in the present note.
