



Ecosystems Division



United Nations
Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Programme statements

on the occasion of the Second 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
New York, 25 March to 5 April 2019

Item 6: Consideration of the subject matter referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 72/249

Capacity building and technology transfer item 6.2 Types of and modalities for capacity-building and transfer of marine technology

Statement:

Thank you, Madam Facilitator.

In light of the interest expressed today in capacity needs assessment, I would like to briefly share some information about a capacity needs assessment recently undertaken focused on national and regional capacity for engagement in ABNJ related matters.

UN Environment and the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN are jointly implementing a project funded by the Global Environment Facility on deep sea fisheries and biodiversity. Under the UN Environment component, a participatory capacity building needs assessment was carried out targeting countries in two regions: the South East Pacific (which is the CPPS region) and Western Indian Ocean (which is the Nairobi Convention region). The assessment had the specific purpose of identifying existing capacity gaps relevant to the application of area-based management and planning tools in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The assessment report for the Western Indian Ocean (available from https://wcmc.io/ABNJ_capacityassessment_wio) considers capacity related to existing knowledge, organizational structures, previous relevant experiences, and available data – amongst other things. This assessment has been published and clearly shows priority areas for future capacity building related to ABMTs in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The capacity assessment report, which outlines the methods used, along with this comment, will be uploaded to PaperSmart to assist discussions.

In response to your request to comment on our specific role in light of discussions today, UN Environment and partners have long been engaged in capacity building to support national engagement with regional seas conventions and action plans. The opportunity to channel national and regional capacity building through this route may have a role to play in future capacity building and technology transfer efforts under the new instrument.

We also would like to highlight inter-regional exchange through our engagement in capacity building projects. Such exchange embraces the entire regional seas family and provides access to a wide range of relevant experiences, including those from the OSPAR Commission and Mediterranean Action Plan. Finally, we would like to add that by taking a regional approach, South-South and North-South cooperation is possible and useful.

Thank you, Madam Facilitator.