

Courtesy translation

English

National Position within the Framework of the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the BBNJ Agreement

The Republic of El Salvador considers that the role of observers must be clearly defined in the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the BBNJ Agreement.

In this regard, it deems it necessary to strengthen this figure based on the provisions of other relevant international instruments, by establishing differentiated categories of observers. This delineation will provide the process with greater clarity, legal certainty, transparency, and inclusiveness in a fair and equitable manner.

El Salvador maintains that States with observer status under the BBNJ Agreement should be able to actively participate in its activities, in order to stay informed and contribute to the debates and decisions that are made, particularly those related to International Law and other related areas.

The scope of observer participation could be informed by instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which recognize an active role for observer States.

Finally, El Salvador emphasizes that the role of observers is relevant within the discussions of the Conference of the Parties, as they may be affected by decisions adopted by the States Parties, and vice versa—States Parties could also be impacted by the actions of observer States.

Therefore, it is essential to ensure their effective participation, in order to safeguard the interests of all parties involved and to promote a balanced, transparent, and cooperative approach to the governance of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.