



Input from the UNFCCC Secretariat to the BBNJ Preparatory Commission

1. Mandate for Cooperation

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), through its constituted bodies and work programmes, promotes international cooperation on climate action, including in areas relevant to ocean governance and marine biodiversity. The Convention and the Paris Agreement facilitate engagement with other intergovernmental organizations and frameworks, consistent with mandates provided by the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), and subsidiary bodies such as the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

Article 7, paragraph 2(l), of the Convention states that the COP shall seek and utilize the services and cooperation of, and information provided by, competent international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. Thus, the secretariat places great value on working with other international organizations, including United Nations agencies, the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and the scientific community.

As per the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#), ocean-related action on climate change is currently addressed under a range of UNFCCC agenda items, constituted bodies and processes. This includes the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue, an annual event under SBSTA mandated by the Pact, which serves as a platform to enhance action and support on ocean-based climate solutions. It engages a wide array of stakeholders, including UN bodies, Parties, and non-Party stakeholders. The UNFCCC secretariat supports Parties in identifying and strengthening synergies between climate action and ocean-related processes, including through inputs to and collaboration with bodies such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The UNFCCC also contributes to work under the UN Decade of Ocean Science and UN-Oceans coordination mechanism.

An overview of [ocean-related mandates](#) is as follows:

COP 25 (2019)

The COP 25 decision, titled the Chile Madrid Time for Action, included a strong recognition on how important the ocean is in the work towards combatting climate change. The decision:

- Expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the scientific community for providing the 2019 Special Reports, which reflect the best available science, and encourages Parties to continue to support the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Paragraph 6);
- Commends the efforts of the President of the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session to highlight the importance of the ocean, including as an integral part of the Earth's climate system, and of ensuring the integrity of ocean and coastal ecosystems in the context of climate change (Paragraph 29);



- Requests the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to convene at its fifty-second session (June 2020) a dialogue on the ocean and climate change to consider how to strengthen mitigation and adaptation action in this context (Paragraph 30);
- Invites Parties and non-Party stakeholders to submit inputs via the submission portal by 31 March 2020 to inform the dialogue (Paragraph 32);
- Requests the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to prepare an informal summary report on the dialogue (Paragraph 33).

Full text available [here](#).

COP 26 (2021)

At COP 26, in the [Glasgow Climate Pact 2021](#), building on the outcomes of the first ocean and climate change dialogue, governments permanently anchored the inclusion of strengthened ocean-based action under the UNFCCC multilateral process. Parties:

- Noted the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including forests, the ocean and the cryosphere, and the protection of biodiversity (preamble);
- Emphasized the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems, including forests and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems, to achieve the long-term global goal of the Convention by acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and protecting biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards (Paragraph 2);
- Recognized the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems to deliver crucial services, including acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts and supporting sustainable livelihoods, including for indigenous peoples and local communities (Paragraph 50);
- Invited the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandates and workplans and to report on these activities within the existing reporting processes, as appropriate (Paragraph 60);
- Invited the SBSTA Chair to hold an annual Ocean and climate change dialogue and prepare an informal summary report that is made available to the COP at each subsequent session (Paragraph 61).

Full text available [here](#).

COP 27 (2022)

At COP 27/CMA 4, in 2022, the COP [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#) (Decision 1/CP.27) and CMA [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#) (Decision 1/CMA.4) continued to strengthen ocean-based action under the process and:

- Encouraged Parties to consider, as appropriate, ocean-based action in their national climate goals and in the implementation of these goals, including but not limited to nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies and adaptation communications (1/CP.27 Paragraph 46 and 1/CMA.4 Paragraph 79).



The COP, under which the ocean dialogue is mandated, also:

- Welcomed the outcomes of and key messages from the [ocean and climate change dialogue 2022](#) and decided that future dialogues will, from 2023, be facilitated by two co-facilitators, selected by Parties biennially, who will be responsible for deciding the topics for and conducting the dialogue, in consultation with Parties and observers, and preparing an informal summary report to be presented in conjunction with the subsequent session of the Conference of the Parties.

COP 28 (2023)

- The outcome of the first global stocktake ([Decision 1/CMA.5](#)), welcomed the outcomes of and the [informal summary report](#) on the 2023 [ocean dialogue](#) and encouraged further strengthening of ocean-based action, as appropriate (Paragraph 180).
- In the outcome of the first global stocktake, Parties noted in the preamble the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including in forests, the ocean, mountains and the cryosphere, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth including the ocean.
- The outcome of the first global stocktake invites Parties to preserve and restore oceans and coastal ecosystems and scale up, as appropriate, ocean-based mitigation action (Paragraph 35). Further, Parties note that ecosystem-based approaches, including ocean-based adaptation and resilience measures, can reduce a range of climate change risks and provide multiple co-benefits (Paragraph 56).
- The outcome of the first global stocktake, encourages the implementation of integrated, multi-sectoral solutions, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, and protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems, including marine and coastal ecosystems, which may offer economic, social and environmental benefits such as improved resilience and well-being (Paragraph 55).
- In accordance with decision 2/CMA.5 on the Global goal on adaptation, the outcome of the first global stocktake urges Parties and invites non-Party stakeholders to increase ambition and enhance adaptation action and support, in order to accelerate swift action at scale and at all levels, from local to global, in alignment with other global frameworks, towards the achievement of, inter alia, the target by 2030 and progressively beyond, of reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity and accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, including through their management, enhancement, restoration and conservation and the protection of terrestrial, inland water, mountain, marine and coastal ecosystems (Paragraph 63 (d)).



2. Cooperative Arrangements and Modalities

As outlined in the SBSTA 60 (2024) information note on **cooperative activities with United Nations entities and other international organizations that contribute to the work under the Convention (FCCC/SBSTA/2024/INF.1)**. Multiple collaborative activities are underway:

- **Joint Liaison Group (JLG):**

The JLG between the CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC enhances coordination and information exchange on biodiversity, desertification, and climate change. Through its capacity-building initiative, the JLG has helped build the capacities of national focal points to identify synergies among the three Rio Conventions. Thanks to this initiative, strategic partnerships with organizations such as UNDESA, the NAP Global Network, and the OECD were strengthened, expanding the reach and impact of the Programme.

- **UN-Oceans Engagement:**

As a member of [UN-Oceans](#), the secretariat contributes to coordination efforts across the UN system. Recent activities include:

- Co-organizing a [side event at COP 29](#) to support States in enhancing ocean-related climate action and informing their NDCs;
- Contributing to the [UN-Oceans side event at COP 16 \(CBD\)](#), focused on biodiversity-climate-ocean synergies;
- Participating in and contributing to the [2024 Ocean Dialogue](#) with 10 UN-Oceans members, resulting in coordinated messages to COP 29;
- Providing input to the [Third World Ocean Assessment](#) and the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, including co-leading Ocean Action Panel 7 on ocean-climate-biodiversity interlinkages.

- **Engagement with Other UN Entities and Processes:**

- **IOC-UNESCO and CBD:** The UNFCCC secretariat maintains active engagement with the IOC on ocean science and observation, and with the CBD on marine biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches;
- **IMO:** The UNFCCC engages with the IMO on matters related to mitigation of GHG emissions from international shipping and adaptation in port and coastal infrastructure;
- **UNEP and UNEA:** Joint efforts with UNEP and its governing bodies have supported integrated ecosystem approaches, the UNEP-CCC (Copenhagen Climate Centre), and regional seas programmes;
- **UNITAR & COP 28 Presidency:** Joint development of an ocean e-learning module.
- **UN Decade of Ocean Science:** The UNFCCC secretariat serves on the Advisory Board, reviewing programme submissions, and contributing to mid-term evaluation and [IOC work](#);
- **OHCHR:** Submitted input to the [Special Rapporteur's report](#) on the ocean and the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment;
- **GESAMP (Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection):** The UNFCCC secretariat has been invited to present at the [51st session of the GESAMP](#).



United Nations
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These arrangements focus on exchange of information, coordination of technical work, and joint capacity-building.