



General Assembly

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Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement 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 and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement

Second session

New York, 18–29 August 2025

Information for participants

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [78/272](#), the General Assembly decided to establish a preparatory commission to prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement 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 and to prepare for the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement. Pursuant to General Assembly decision 78/560, the first session of the Commission was held from 14 to 25 April 2025. Pursuant to the same decision, the second session of the Commission is scheduled to be held from 18 to 29 August 2025 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

II. Secretariat

2. Support and secretariat services are provided by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, in cooperation with other relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat. The Division can be reached by email at doalos@un.org.

III. Participation

3. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution [78/272](#), the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement 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 and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement is open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

4. In addition, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution [78/272](#), the following organizations and other entities are invited as observers to the Preparatory Commission:

(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 relevant conferences and summits:

(i) World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(ii) United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(iii) United Nations conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States;

(iv) United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

(v) The 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) The United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

(c) 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, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands;

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

5. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution [78/272](#), attendance at the meetings of the Preparatory Commission as observers is also open to relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as to those that were accredited to any of the relevant conferences and summits referred to in paragraph 4 (b) above.

IV. Credentials

6. As indicated in the note verbale concerning the convening of the second session of the Preparatory Commission, dated 13 May 2025, States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the Convention that have not yet submitted the original hard copies of their credentials for the Preparatory Commission, or that may wish to update their credentials, 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 the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

7. A scanned copy of the credentials, as well as other communications containing the names of representatives (such as letters and notes verbales from the permanent missions), should only be submitted through the online e-Credentials platform, under the tab “BBNJ Agreement Preparatory Commission”, which can be accessed through the e-deleGATE portal (e-delegate.un.org). Email submissions of scanned copies of the credentials will not be accepted. For enquiries, please email ecredentials@un.org.

V. Registration

8. Information on registration modalities for the issuance of grounds passes to ensure access to Headquarters for States and other entities entitled to participate in the second session of the Preparatory Commission is provided on the website of the Agreement (www.un.org/bbnjagreement).

VI. List of participants

9. Delegations are kindly requested to enter the names of the members of their delegations participating in the second session into the “e-List of participants” module in the e-deleGATE portal by 1 August 2025.

10. 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 second session of the Preparatory Commission, are kindly requested to communicate the composition of their delegations to the secretariat (the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea) by email to Bingzhuo Li at bingzhuo.li@un.org, with copy to doalos@un.org.

11. The information on participants from NGOs will be based on the information provided in the registration forms on the Indico portal.

VII. Documentation and statements

12. The provisional agenda and provisional organization of work for the meeting, as well as other meeting documents, will be made available on the Agreement website. 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 (Conference Building, room CB-0264) and the Delegates Documents Counter (Secretariat Building, room S-1B-032).

13. Delegations are invited to submit their statements in PDF or Microsoft Word 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 for posting online will be displayed 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 if the statement is “For service only” (i.e. for the use of interpreters only) and **not** for posting online. The statements will remain embargoed until their delivery. The eStatements services are only available for the duration of the meeting. Statements submitted after the final day of the meeting will not be posted on eStatements.

VIII. Interpretation

14. The official languages of the Preparatory Commission are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

15. 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 ensure 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).

16. 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 an interpreter from the non-official language into an official language. If available, a spare interpretation booth will be reserved in each conference room to accommodate interpreters provided by Member States to interpret from their national languages into one of the six official languages. This facility will be available only for the duration of the national statement and only in one direction. Delegations seeking to provide their own interpreters for non-official languages are requested to inform the Meetings Management Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management well in advance by email (gmeets@un.org) and to copy the Interpretation Service (is-unhq@un.org) and the Broadcast and Conference Support Section (request-for-services@un.org). The Meetings Management Section will provide further instructions.

IX. Security arrangements

Department of Safety and Security

Security Operations Centre

17. The Security Operations Centre of the Security and Safety Service operates on a 24-hour basis and can be contacted by telephone (212 963 6666) for all access requests or any general enquiries.

18. 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).

19. 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 2 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

20. In the interest of ensuring the safety of all concerned, members of delegations, staff members and accredited representatives of NGOs, the press and affiliates are expected to maintain the integrity of United Nations-issued identification because of the access it allows.

21. Members of delegations 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.

22. Staff members, members of delegations and other persons who are entitled to access 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](#) on the wearing of grounds passes, 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.

23. Within United Nations premises, all persons are required to comply with safety and security regulations and with the rules and procedures of the Organization. Any act that disrupts the normal functioning of the programmatic activities of the Organization, such as public displays of activism of any form, including, but not limited to, clothing, banners, placards or other written or visual means, as well as the playing of vocal or other audio recordings, gatherings, or demonstrations of any kind, including passive, is not permitted. All individuals present on United Nations premises are expected to cooperate fully with United Nations security officers at all times. Refusal to comply with applicable regulations may result in temporary detention or removal from or denial of access to the premises, in accordance with section 10 of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations and with administrative instruction [ST/AI/2019/5](#) on the authority of United Nations security officers.

Lost and found services

24. Lost and found services are provided by the Security and Safety Service and are located on the ground floor of the UNITAR Building (801 East 45th Street). The entrance is located on 1st Avenue. The hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the Service can be contacted by telephone at 917 367 8028/30, or 7-8028/30 from a United Nations telephone. Outside regular business hours and on weekends and United Nations holidays, queries concerning lost and found items are handled by the Security Operations Centre (see para. 18).

X. Media access arrangements and services

25. Media representatives in possession of a valid United Nations grounds pass will be allowed to cover the meeting without additional accreditation, within the limits of allowed room capacity. All others will be asked to apply for accreditation in advance of the meeting. 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 www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/accreditation.shtml. 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, as well as a valid passport and samples of work.

26. All members of the media corps accompanying a 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 portal (instructions available at www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/pdf/eRegistration_guide_media_passes.pdf). Missions should apply for a media pass on behalf of the official photographers and videographers.

27. Approved media members will receive confirmation by email with instructions for picking up their United Nations grounds pass.

28. 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.

29. 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.

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

31. 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).

32. 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. All media representatives will be required to wear their United Nations grounds pass at all times.

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

United Nations audiovisual materials

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

35. United Nations Television (UNTV) will provide live pool coverage of the public meetings and official press briefings. Live television feeds will be available through commercial carriers when outbound lines are available for such purpose (see media.un.org/untv/en/transmission-guide). Requests for additional information should be directed to UNTV (by email to alain.adair@un.org and redi@un.org; or by telephone at +1 (917) 367 9231). A detailed schedule of live and playback coverage will be made available to broadcast clients in advance.

36. United Nations Web TV (webtv.un.org) will provide live and on-demand streaming coverage, subject to the availability of resources, in all six official languages (when interpretation is available) for the formal meetings of the second session.

United Nations meetings coverage

37. The Department of Global Communications will provide meetings coverage of formal meetings of the second session in English (press.un.org/en/highlights/bbnj) and French (press.un.org/fr/highlights/bbnj). Further queries on meetings coverage should be directed to the Meetings Coverage Section by email to english_press@un.org and french_press@un.org.

Briefings and news conferences

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

XI. Accessibility services for persons with disabilities

39. Delegations are requested to inform the Secretariat of the accessibility requirements of delegates in order to facilitate participation in meetings. Upon request, adjustments can be made to seating arrangements with a view to enabling the participation of persons with disabilities, in accordance with paragraphs 33 and 34 of General Assembly resolution [73/341](#).

40. The United Nations Accessibility Centre offers a number of assistive devices to support participants with disabilities. These devices are available on-site and can be loaned to participants upon request, for use within United Nations premises. The Accessibility Centre is located on the first basement of the Secretariat Building (room S-1B-032), near the escalators. For more information, please visit www.un.org/dgacm/content/accessibility.

41. The Meetings Support Section also offers print-on-demand service for meeting participants requiring Braille copies of official documents. Please send Braille requests to accessibilitycentre@un.org at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting date, for processing. Printouts can be collected at the Accessibility Centre. For further enquiries, please call 212 963 7348/9, or email accessibilitycentre@un.org.

XII. Greening the meeting

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

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

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

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

45. 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.

46. 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.

47. 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

48. The current hours of service of 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): 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Riverview Café (Conference Building, 4th floor): 11 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)
- Visitor's Café (General Assembly Building, 1st basement): 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

XV. Additional information

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