



## 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**

**Third session**

New York, 23 March–2 April 2026

**Draft decision for consideration by the first meeting of the  
Conference of the Parties to 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 on  
arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant legal  
instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional,  
subregional and sectoral bodies**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* that the objective 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, as set out in its article 2, is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long term, through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention and further international cooperation and coordination,

*Recalling* that article 5 of the Agreement addresses the relationship between the Agreement and the Convention and relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies and provides, in paragraph 1, that the Agreement shall be interpreted and applied in the context of and in a manner consistent with the Convention and, in paragraph 2, that the Agreement shall be interpreted and applied in a manner that does not undermine those instruments, frameworks and bodies, and that promotes coherence and coordination with those instruments, frameworks and bodies,

*Recalling also* that Parties are required, pursuant to article 8, paragraph 1, of the Agreement, to cooperate under the Agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including through strengthening and enhancing cooperation with and promoting cooperation among relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies in the achievement of the objectives of the Agreement, and that, pursuant to article 8, paragraph 2, Parties shall endeavour to promote, as appropriate, the objectives of the Agreement when participating in decision-making under such instruments, frameworks and bodies,

*Recalling further* that, with regard to arrangements to enhance cooperation, pursuant to article 47, paragraph 6 (c), of the Agreement, the Conference of the Parties shall promote, including by establishing appropriate processes, cooperation and coordination with and among relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, with a view to promoting coherence among efforts towards the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and that the Conference of the Parties is also required, pursuant to article 48, paragraph 3, to promote transparency in the implementation of the Agreement, including through the public dissemination of information and the facilitation of the participation of, and consultation with, relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies,

*Recalling further* that, under article 50, paragraph 4 (d), of the Agreement, the secretariat is required to facilitate cooperation and coordination, as appropriate, with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and, in particular, enter into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for that purpose and for the effective discharge of its functions, subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties,

*Recalling further* that, under article 51, paragraph 4, of the Agreement, the Clearing-House Mechanism shall be managed by the secretariat, without prejudice to possible cooperation with other relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies as determined by the Conference of the Parties, including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Seabed Authority, the International Maritime Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

*Recognizing* the role and contribution of relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies in the attainment of the general objectives of the Agreement, and recognizes that cooperation with these instruments, frameworks and bodies is crucial in ensuring the effective implementation of the Agreement,

*Having considered* the report of 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, in particular concerning arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies,

1. *Decides* that all cooperation and coordination with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, which is to be carried out by States Parties and the institutions and bodies established under the Agreement, to the extent and scope provided for in the Agreement, shall promote the objectives of the Agreement and be guided, as appropriate, by the following:

(a) The need for regular engagement and consultations with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies on matters related to the Agreement and facilitation of their participation, as observers, in the work of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

(b) The need for a gradual approach towards and strategic prioritization of early cooperation arrangements with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies whose mandates directly intersect with the objectives of the Agreement, so as to ensure its effective and timely implementation;

(c) The recognition of the mandate complementarity and various synergies between the Agreement and relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies, while not undermining them, and the need to develop strategies to manage overlapping mandates and avoid duplication of efforts, including, where appropriate, by leveraging the expertise and best practices of relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies, and existing cooperation and coordination arrangements and platforms;

(d) The promotion of equity and inclusiveness in cooperation arrangements under the Agreement, including by taking into account the needs and interests of all relevant stakeholders, as well as the prioritization of the full participation of developing States, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries on the basis of full recognition of their special circumstances, and landlocked developing countries, in any such arrangements;

(e) The recognition of the different levels of formality required to operationalize cooperation under the Agreement, which may include, as appropriate, the establishment of formal memorandums of understanding, agreements and collective arrangements developed in collaboration with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies. Cooperation may also be carried out through informal modes, such as: informal liaison groups, working groups, committees and inter-agency coordination mechanisms for technical coordination, and informal consultations; information and technical exchanges, and data-sharing, subject to applicable confidentiality and data protection requirements; and joint workplans or other joint activities of an ad hoc nature that promote the objectives of the Agreement, including capacity-building and training programmes;

(f) The importance of ensuring continuity in cooperation, including through standing arrangements with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies, supplemented by ad hoc engagement as necessary;

(g) The need for a flexible approach to cooperation under the Agreement and the need to maintain a flexible approach to operationalizing such cooperation that allows for cooperation arrangements to adapt to emerging needs and priorities that evolve over time, while taking into account the practicality of arrangements and complementarity in activities, as well as existing legal obligations and standards, including the need to consider the respective capacities, resources, and operational limits and the importance of seeking coherence and complementarity with the work cycles of the instruments, frameworks and bodies concerned;

(h) The importance of enabling reciprocity and the provision of mutual support in cooperation arrangements, including mutual recognition of and collaboration across mandates and co-development of cooperative mechanisms and activities, which may include those that reflect the priorities of developing States, where appropriate;

(i) The importance of transparency, accessibility, reliability and coherence with regard to modalities, procedures and communication in all engagement and cooperation, while ensuring the protection of confidential information, as well as systems interoperability and harmonization of reporting requirements;

(j) The need to consider cost-effectiveness and the use of cost-sharing arrangements, as appropriate, as well as ensuring that such arrangements are designed to promote efficiency in the use of existing financial, technical and human resources;

[(k) Deleted.]

(l) The need to monitor and review the effectiveness of cooperative arrangements under the Agreement and the contribution they make to implementation, including through periodic assessments, and to consider any necessary action, as appropriate;

2. *Invites* relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies to cooperate, within their mandates, with the institutions and bodies established under the Agreement, in furtherance of the objectives of the Agreement and, to that end, encourages the participation of such instruments, frameworks and bodies as observers in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the subsidiary bodies established under the Agreement;

2 bis. *Calls upon* Parties to the Agreement to promote cooperation with and among relevant instruments framework and bodies;

2 ter. *Requests* the subsidiary bodies established under the Agreement to identify, in every programme of work, their needs with regards to cooperation and coordination with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies to ensure an effective and timely implementation of the tasks identified in that programme of work;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to seek membership in UN-Oceans;

4. *Also requests* the secretariat to engage and consult with the secretariats of other relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, including through UN-Oceans and by inviting relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies to provide information regarding their views on possible forms of cooperation with those instruments, frameworks and bodies and to report to the Conference of the Parties on this issue at its second meeting;

5. *Further requests* the secretariat, as appropriate, to, using input from the programmes of work to be developed by the subsidiary bodies established under the Agreement, develop a joint programme of work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and those subsidiary bodies to support the implementation of cooperation activities with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies for the achievement of the objectives of the Agreement for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, and further requests the secretariat to update the joint programme of work on a regular basis;

[6. *Deleted.*]

7. *Requests* the secretariat to consider including appropriate resources in the budget to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 6 (e), of the Agreement, to support cooperation and coordination with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, taking duly into account any prevailing budgetary constraints;

7 bis. *Also requests* the secretariat to include, in its report on the execution of its function under article 50, paragraph 4(e), of the Agreement, a section on cooperation and coordination with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, including the support provided by the secretariat to subsidiary bodies in these processes;

8. *Decides* to include a standing item on cooperation and coordination with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties.

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