



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | NEW YORK

**WELCOME REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR BURHAN GAFOOR,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WORKSHOP ON INTERACTIONS
BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY AND THE
BBNJ AGREEMENT BODIES AND PROCESSES,
NEW YORK, 5 NOVEMBER 2025**

1 It is my great honour to welcome you to the Singapore Mission for this workshop on interactions between the International Seabed Authority and BBNJ Agreement bodies and processes. This workshop has been organised by the Secretariat of the ISA, in partnership with Fiji, Jamaica, Malta and Singapore.

2 This workshop is very timely, given that the BBNJ Agreement is scheduled to enter into force on 17 January 2026 and the Preparatory Commission to prepare for the Agreement's entry into force and first Conference of the Parties is meeting in March next year with the aim of completing its work.

3 Singapore, as I am sure would be the same with Fiji, Jamaica and Malta, is particularly pleased to partner with the ISA on this workshop given our leadership and active participation in the negotiations for the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which created the ISA, our strong support for the ISA and our leadership and active participation in BBNJ Agreement-related processes.

4 The subject of this workshop is of critical importance. Under UNCLOS and the 1994 Implementation Agreement, the ISA is the organisation through which State Parties to UNCLOS organise and control activities in the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction for the benefit of humankind, particularly with a view to administering the mineral resources of the seabed. The BBNJ Agreement, which has been described as the third implementing agreement of UNCLOS, applies to areas beyond national jurisdiction, which includes the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction.

5 The BBNJ Agreement provides for cooperation with relevant legal instruments, frameworks and bodies, which would include the ISA. The BBNJ Agreement Preparatory Commission has included, as part of its programme of work, the matter of arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant legal instruments, frameworks and bodies.

6 At the same time, it is essential for ISA members to consider how the ISA is to engage with BBNJ Agreement bodies and processes. One of the key aims of this workshop would be to serve as a first step in this respect. We hope that the discussions that we will have can serve as a stepping stone for the development of appropriate processes that would ensure constructive and complementary interaction between the ISA and BBNJ Agreement bodies and processes.

7 Thank you for your attention.

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