



**Third Session 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**

**STATEMENT**

**To Promote coherence and Coordination between the International Seabed Authority and institutions under the BBNJ Agreement**

**by**

**Madam Leticia Reis de Carvalho  
Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority**

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**United Nations HQ, New York, USA**

**Thank you, Co-Chair, Colleagues, Friends,**

Firstly, allow me to express my appreciation to the co-Chairs for your leadership in guiding 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. We also note with appreciation the solid work undertaken by DOALOS as the interim Secretariat in supporting the Preparatory Commission and facilitating the entry into force of the Agreement.

The International Seabed Authority, as an international organization established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to organize and control activities in the Area, warmly welcomes the entry into force BBNJ. It will enable a more holistic governance structure in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and mark an important milestone in strengthening a rules-based system in global ocean governance under the Convention.

At a time when multilateralism faces increasing pressure, this moment reaffirms a fundamental principle: the governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction must be anchored in law, cooperation and institutional coherence. The Authority, as an international organization established under the Convention, is part of that architecture. Its mandate – to organize and control activities in the Area – forms an integral component of this system.

In this context, it is important to recall that activities in the Area are already governed by a comprehensive regulatory framework under the Convention, the 1994 Agreement and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority. Exploration activities are subject to detailed rules and oversight, while the exploitation regulations are currently under development by the Council.

The operation of the BBNJ Agreement will engage the Authority in multiple ways and bear upon a range of aspects of its work, and vice versa.

For example, activities organized and controlled by the Authority in the Area have implications across several key areas for BBNJ, such as collection of in situ marine genetic resources, protection of the marine environment through the establishment of Area-Based Management Tools and Environmental Impact Assessments, as well as capacity building and transfer of marine technology.

In this context, the Authority has developed tools, resources and practices that are directly relevant. With respect to scientific knowledge and data, the DeepData database has accumulated large amounts of critical information on deep-sea environments. Regarding capacity-building, the Contractors' Training Programme provides opportunities for personnel from developing States to build relevant operational expertise.

With regard to environmental protection, the Authority has established and implemented a Regional Environmental Management Plan (REMP) for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ), formulated a standardized approach to REMP development, approval and review, and adopted detailed and substantive regulations and recommendations related to the

assessment of possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area.

All of these elements represent potential areas of synergy between the Authority and BBNJ mechanisms, which can strengthen coherence, avoid duplication and advance common objectives for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

The Authority welcomes the efforts to formulate guidance on cooperation and coordination with relevant international frameworks and bodies (IFBs), to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in the form of a decision. The Authority recognizes that cooperation between relevant international frameworks and bodies and the institutions under the BBNJ Agreement is inherently complex, as it involves not only the operation of related provisions of the BBNJ Agreement but also the respective mandates of relevant international frameworks and bodies, as well as their legal, financial and institutional frameworks and constraints.

We noted that the draft decision stresses, inter alia, the need for a gradual approach towards and strategic prioritization of early cooperation arrangements with relevant IFBs, the recognition of the mandate complementarity and various synergies, the need for a flexible approach to cooperation and the importance of ensuring reciprocity and the provision of mutual support in cooperation arrangements.

From the outset, the Authority has clearly expressed its commitment to working hand in hand with institutions under the BBNJ Agreement to promote a more coherent and robust ocean governance order. The Authority attaches great importance to cooperation with the institutions under the BBNJ Agreement. In addition to its participation in the negotiation of the Agreement and the work of the Preparatory Commission, the Secretariat of the Authority has organized dedicated side events and a Workshop, in partnership with its member States, to inform the deliberations of the organs of the Authority and to facilitate future interactions between the Authority and the institutions under the BBNJ Agreement.

The recently concluded first part of the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Authority held in-depth discussions on the potential implications and opportunities for the work of the Authority of the operation of the BBNJ Agreement. Interactions between the Authority and the institutions under the BBNJ Agreement will continue to be a focus of the Authority's work.

Ensuring coherence between these regimes will be essential to delivering on our collective responsibility under the Convention and to strengthening the credibility of multilateral ocean governance. Regarding to that, the Authority and BBNJ must evolve hand in hand.

In closing, the Authority remains fully committed to working constructively with the institutions under the BBNJ Agreement and all partners to support a coherent, coordinated and effective system for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

Thank you, co-Chair.