



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
13 November 2025

Original: English

Eightieth session

Agenda item 75 (b)

Oceans and the law of the sea: 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

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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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [72/249](#) of 24 December 2017, in which it decided to convene an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee established by resolution [69/292](#) of 19 June 2015 on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea¹ on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity

* Any changes to the list of sponsors will be reflected in the official record of the meeting.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.



of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible, and other relevant resolutions and decisions relating to the convening of sessions of the conference,²

Recalling also the adoption by the conference, on 19 June 2023, 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,³ by consensus,

Recalling further its resolution 77/321 of 1 August 2023, resolution 78/272 of 24 April 2024, resolution 79/271 of 4 March 2025 and decision 78/560 of 13 August 2024 on the Agreement,

Underscoring the importance of the work of the preparatory commission established by resolution 78/272 to prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement and to prepare for the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement,

Noting that the conditions for the entry into force of the Agreement were met and that it will enter into force on 17 January 2026 pursuant to its article 68, paragraph 1, following the deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession on 19 September 2025,

Noting also that the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations no later than one year after the entry into force of the Agreement pursuant to its article 47, paragraph 2,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the first and second sessions 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 from 14 to 25 April and from 18 to 29 August 2025, respectively, and recalls that a third session will be convened from 23 March to 2 April 2026;

2. *Takes note* of the statements by the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Commission at the closing of the first and second sessions of the Commission;⁴

3. *Welcomes* the upcoming entry into force of the Agreement on 17 January 2026;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of the Agreement;

5. *Takes note* of the signatures and ratifications of the Agreement to date;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement for at least 10 working days by 17 January 2027, on dates and for a duration to be determined in consultation with the Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the Preparatory Commission, with full conference services, including documentation, provision for parallel meetings and overtime, webcast and press and meeting coverage;

7. *Calls upon* all States and regional economic integration organizations that have not done so to consider becoming Parties to the Agreement at the earliest possible date;

² Resolutions 75/239 and 77/248 and decisions 74/543, 75/570, 76/564 and 77/556.

³ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

⁴ A/AC.296/2025/9 and A/AC.296/2025/19.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to administer the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution [69/292](#) for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as expanded in resolution [78/272](#), in attending the meetings of the Conference of the Parties;⁵

9. *Invites* Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund, and expresses its appreciation to those that have contributed;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the capacity-building and technical assistance activities of States, regional economic integration organizations, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, and other relevant United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations within their respective mandates, in relation to the Agreement, taking note also of the contributions of other relevant stakeholders in this regard, and encourages the further undertaking of such activities;

11. *Recalls* its invitation to States to provide information to the Secretary-General on their capacity-building and technical assistance needs with a view to becoming Parties to the Agreement to inform the further development and provision of capacity-building and technical assistance activities of the Division in support of requesting States becoming Parties to the Agreement and the effective implementation of the Agreement;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session, under the item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”, the sub-item entitled “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 hold the informal consultations concerning the resolution on the Agreement for one day in October.

⁵ See resolutions [69/292](#) and [78/272](#).