

**Building Strong Institutions, Building Capacities: Setting the Vision for the Early Operationalization of the BBNJ Agreement**

16 April 2025 | 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM | Conference Room 7

The early entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement is expected within the year as states are in the race to ratify nearly two years since it was opened for signature. Alongside this, the establishment of the BBNJ Preparatory Commission (PrepCom) started last year, and this will allow the government delegations to take necessary steps for the early operationalization of the Treaty including the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

During the Organizational Meeting of the BBNJ PrepCom last year in June 2024, government delegations agreed on the three priority issues in the PrepCom’s Program of Work: governance, Clearing House Mechanism, and finance. These issues were considered as critical in ensuring that the Agreement will be implemented timely and effectively. These issues tackle also other deeper and wider discussion such as the capacity and preparedness of states to fulfill their obligations and operationalize the Agreement. It also includes other enabling mechanisms such as finance to implement effectively and create impact meaningfully through the activities under BBNJ.

This side-event aims to facilitate exchange of information and views on issues including capacity needs matching, finance, subsidiary bodies, among others.

**Run of the Show**

1:15 PM to 1:17 PM	<p><b>Welcome Message</b></p> <p><b>Ambassador Leila C. Lora-Santos</b> Deputy Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations</p> <p>(2 mins)</p>
1:17 PM to 1:30 PM	<p><b>Perspectives from Member States on the Early Operationalization of BBNJ</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Andy Aron</b> Minister Counsellor, Coordinator for Legal, Ocean, and UN Governance Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations</p> <p><b>Mr. Martin Zvachula</b> Second Secretary Permanent Mission of Micronesia to the United Nations</p> <p><b>Ms. Kimberly K. Louis</b> Deputy Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations Saint Lucia</p> <p>(3- 4 mins each)</p>
1:30 PM – 1:36 PM	<p><b>Visions of an Effective Secretariat and its Headquarters</b></p> <p><b>Ambassador Julio Cordano</b> Director of Environment, Climate Change and Oceans, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile</p>

	<p><b>Mr. Thomas Voets</b> Delegation of Belgium</p> <p>(3 – 4 mins each)</p>
1:36 PM to 1:41 PM	<p><b>The role of finance to realize the potential benefits of State Parties from the BBNJ Agreement</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Angelique Pouponneau</b> AOSIS Ocean Lead Negotiator</p> <p>(5 – 6 mins)</p>
1:41 PM to 1:48 PM	<p><b>Perspectives on the Clearing House Mechanism with focus on Marine Genetic Resources</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Eleanor Petch</b> International Marine Policy Manager Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office United Kingdom</p> <p>(7 – 8 mins)</p>
1:48 PM to 1:55 PM	<p><b>Understanding the Clearing House Mechanism with focus on Environmental Impact Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Johannes Mueller</b> Ocean Policy Expert, OceanCare</p> <p>(7 – 8 mins)</p>
1:55 PM to 2:02 PM	<p><b>The Scientific and Technical Body and its Interactions with other Subsidiary Bodies and Scientific Institutions</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Marie Antonette Juinio-Meñez</b> Professor, Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines</p> <p>(7 – 8 mins)</p>
2:02 PM – 2:09 PM	<p><b>Strengthening cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Suzette Suarez</b> Hochschule Bremen City University of Applied Sciences, Germany</p> <p>(7 – 8 mins)</p>
2:09 PM – 2:20 PM	<p><b>Responding to Member States' Capacity Needs: The Activities of DOALOS</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Snjezana Zaric</b> Programme Officer, Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea</p> <p>(8 – 9 mins)</p>
2:20 PM to 2:37 PM	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <p>(15 – 17 mins)</p>

2:37 PM to 2:40 PM	<b>Closing</b>