

EXPLORING POTENTIAL INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN THE BBNJ AGREEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY, CHEMICALS AND WASTE RELATED MEAS



WEBINAR 1: Leveraging Interlinkages



Date :
18 March, 2025



Time :
15:00 – 16:30 EAT

WEBINAR 2: Understanding the BBNJ



Date :
19 March, 2025



Time :
15:00 – 16:30 EAT

Concept Note for Online Workshops

Background

The adoption, 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 (BBNJ Agreement) marks a historic step towards global ocean and environmental governance. In accordance with Article 68(1), the Agreement shall enter into force 120 days after the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession. As of January 2025, there are 15 parties to the Agreement.

Once the BBNJ Agreement enters into force, successful implementation will rely on the establishment of cooperative and synergistic relationships with other relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies while respecting their respective mandates as outlined in its Articles 2, 5, 8 and 47 of the BBNJ Agreement. In particular, Article 5 states that the Agreement “*shall be interpreted and applied in a manner that does not undermine relevant international frameworks and bodies and that promotes coherence and coordination, with a view to promoting coherence among efforts towards the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction*”. This includes the thematic and substantive work undertaken by biodiversity, chemicals and waste related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Regional

Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), which is of direct relevance to BBNJ Measures.

To assist in identifying areas where Parties to the BBNJ Agreement may seek coherence and enhanced coordination with relevant MEAs upon its entry into force for a collaborative approach, the UNEP Ecosystems and Law Divisions are collaborating with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on a horizon scan of interlinkages between the BBNJ Agreement and biodiversity, chemicals, and waste-related MEAs. Further, in cooperation with the UN Office of Legal Affairs, and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), UNEP has developed a self-paced [introductory course](#) to the BBNJ Agreement hosted on InforMEA. Building on a June 2024 global training organized by UNEP for National Focal Points of the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, in partnership with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, UNEP proposes two follow-up online workshops.

The first workshop will focus on exploring the interlinkages between the BBNJ Agreement and biodiversity, chemicals, and waste-related MEAs, leveraging UNEP's expertise. The aim of the workshop is to enhance understanding of the potential connections that exist, facilitate coordination on technical assistance, and provide a platform for input into UNEP's horizon scan. report. The target audience will be personnel from UNEP Ecosystems and Law Divisions; UNEP-WCMC, Representatives of secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, and Minamata Convention; Representatives of RSCAPs; DOALOS; and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

The second workshop will seek to enhance stakeholders understanding of the BBNJ Agreement including its relationships with various related MEAs such as those addressing biodiversity, waste and chemicals. The target audience will be National Focal Points of the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, MEAs Focal Points, UNEP Regional and Sub-Regional Offices; and RSCAPs.

The webinars will be held in English only through Zoom. The presentations will be recorded and made available on the Montevideo Programme V website.

FIRST WORKSHOP

Title	Leveraging Interlinkages Between the BBNJ Agreement and Related MEAs
Date & Venue	18 th March 2025, online (Zoom)
Time	15:00 – 16:30 (EAT, UTC+3), 90 minutes (1 hour, 30 minutes)
Objectives	The objectives of this workshop will be: 1. To provide a comprehensive briefing on UNEP’s ongoing work related to the BBNJ Agreement issues and its linkages with biodiversity, and chemicals and waste-related MEAs and RSCAPs. 2. To explore linkages and potential synergies between the selected MEAs and the BBNJ Agreement to support its effective implementation. 3. To discuss technical assistance coordination among UNEP, chemicals and waste management MEAs, and RSCAPs to assist countries in implementing the BBNJ Agreement. 4. To equip participants with the capacity to engage with member states on crosscutting issues and the interconnection of their respective legal instruments with the BBNJ Agreement.
Outcomes	The expected outcomes of the workshop will be: 1. Enhanced understanding of the linkages between the BBNJ Agreement and biodiversity, and chemicals and waste-related MEAs. 2. Identified opportunities for UNEP and selected MEAs to coordinate technical assistance to countries. 3. Strengthened synergies between chemicals and waste management MEAs and RSCAPs to support BBNJ implementation. 4. Identified areas of interest and improvement for the draft report analysing the overlay of the BBNJ Agreement with biodiversity, chemicals and waste related MEAs by UNEP Ecosystems and Law Divisions in collaborating with UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).
Target Audience	UNEP Ecosystems and Law Divisions; UNEP-WCMC, Representatives of secretariats of CBD, CITES, BRS Conventions, and Minamata Convention; Representatives of RSCAPs; DOALOS; and IPBES.
Organizers	UNEP Law Division, Environmental Rule of Law Branch, Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit; UNEP Ecosystems Division
Focal Points	Gracian Banda, Head, Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit, UNEP Law Division Sinikinesh Jimma, Head, Marine and Freshwater Branch, UNEP Ecosystems Division

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker
10 minutes	Introduction	
15:00 – 15:10 (10 minutes)	Welcome and Objectives of the Workshop	Stadler Trengove , Principal Legal Advisor and Chief, Environmental Rule of Law Branch, UNEP Law Division
1 hr 10 minutes	Session: Leveraging interlinkages to Address Biodiversity Loss and Enhance the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste	
15:10 – 15:20 (10 minutes)	The synergy and overlay of the BBNJ Agreement with other biodiversity-related MEAs	Chris Mc’ Owen , Lead Marine Scientist, UNEP-WCMC
15:20 – 15:30 (10 minutes)	UNEP’s Offer of Support for BBNJ Ratification & Early Action	Sinikinesh Jimma , Head, Marine and Freshwater Branch, UNEP Ecosystems Division
15:30 – 16:20 (50 minutes)	Discussion: Opportunities for collaboration and shared objectives among MEAs	Perspectives from MEAs & RSCAPs (7 min each, 4 speakers ~ 28 minutes) • CBD (Joe Appiott) • CITES (Stavros Antoniadis) • Regional Seas Programme (Monika Thiele) and • BRS (Jackline Wanja Wanjiru) Moderated by Tita Korvenoja, Chief, Environmental Conventions and Policy Branch, UNEP Law Division (framing 5 minutes, conclusions 10 minutes)
10 minutes	Closing, Next steps and Coordination of Technical Assistance	
16:20 – 16:30 (10 minutes)	Reflections	Gracian Banda, Senior Legal Officer, Head, Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit, UNEP Law Division Reflections on: • Coordinating technical assistance for BBNJ implementation. • UNEP’s support mechanisms, including Montevideo Programme technical legal assistance. Feedback and input on the draft report and outline developed by UNEP and WCMC

SECOND WORKSHOP

Title	Understanding the BBNJ Agreement and its Interface with Related MEAs
Date & Venue	19th March 2025, online (Zoom)
Time	15:00 – 16:30 (EAT, UTC+3), 90 minutes (1 hour, 30 minutes)
Objectives	The objectives of this workshop will be: 1. To outline the objectives, functions and regulatory gaps addressed by the BBNJ; 2. To explain the key provisions of the BBNJ Agreement and how these affect regulatory frameworks of various sectors; 3. To discuss the processes of entry into force, ratification and related processes for the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement; and 4. To highlight obligations and expectations of parties to the BBNJ Agreement
Outcomes	The expected outcomes of the workshop will be: 1. Enhanced understanding of the BBNJ Agreement and its interface with related MEAs. 2. Identified opportunities for parties to improve their legal frameworks through ratification and implementation of BBNJ and related MEAs. 3. Improve understanding of parties' obligations and how these relate to those under various MEAs. 4. Identify areas of cooperation and technical support that UNEP Ecosystems and Law Divisions in collaborating with UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) can provide in implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.
Target Audience	Montevideo Programme V National Focal Points; MEAs Focal Points; UNEP Regional and Sub-Regional Offices; RSCAPs
Organizers	UNEP Law Division, Environmental Rule of Law Branch, Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit; UNEP Ecosystems Division
Focal Points	Gracian Banda, Head, Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit, UNEP Law Division Sinikinesh Jimma, Head, Marine and Freshwater Branch, UNEP Ecosystems Division

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker
10 min	Introduction	
15:00 – 15:10 (10 minutes)	Welcome and Objectives of the Workshop	Stadler Trengove , Principal Legal Advisor and Chief, Environmental Rule of Law Branch, UNEP Law Division
1 hr 10 min	Session: Understanding the BBNJ Agreement and its Interface with Related MEAs	
15:10 – 15:30 (20 minutes)	Objectives, functions and overview of the BBNJ Agreement.	Charlotte Salpin , Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS
15:30 – 15:50 (20 minutes)	Signature, ratification, and accession to treaties, including the BBNJ Agreement	Dina Hamdy , Legal Officer, Treaty Section, UN Office of Legal Affairs
15:50-16:00 (10 minutes)	Opportunities and Challenges in the implementation of BBNJ and the role of the BBNJ Agreement - Perspectives from a Member State	Kate Wilson , Legal Officer/National Focal Point MVP5, St. Lucia; LAC Representative Steering Committee, MVP5
16:00-16:20 (20 minutes)	Question & Answer Session	Moderated by Gracian Banda , Senior Legal Officer, Head, Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit, UNEP Law Division
10 minutes	Closing, Next steps and Coordination of Technical Assistance	
16:20 – 16:30 (10 minutes)	Reflections on: - Coordinating technical assistance for BBNJ implementation. - UNEP's support mechanisms, including Montevideo Programme technical legal assistance.	Gracian Banda , Senior Legal Officer, Head, Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit, UNEP Law Division

For any questions, please contact Gracian Banda at gracian.banda@un.org or UNEP-montevideo unep-montevideo@un.org