

**Overview of the Preparatory Committee  
(PrepCom 1) process in the development of an  
international legally binding instrument  
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  
May 18-21, 2016, St. George's, Grenada**

# United Nations General Assembly

## *Resolution 69/292 adopted on 19 June 2015:*

- Decision to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) under the UNCLOS;
- To that end, the Assembly established a Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) to make substantive recommendations to the GA on the elements of a draft text of an ILBI; and
- The resolution also indicated that “negotiations shall address topics identified in the package agreed in 2011”.

# Preparatory Committee 1

It was convened from 28 March – 8 April 2016 at UN Headquarters in New York. In the plenary and informal working group settings, the PrepCom 1 considered:

- The scope of an ILBI and its relationship with other instruments as well as the guiding approaches and principles;
- marine genetic resources, including questions on benefit-sharing;
- area-based management tools, including marine protected areas;
- environmental impact assessments; and
- capacity building and marine technology transfer.

# Conclusion of PrepCom1

- prepare a Chair's summary of PrepCom 1 to be circulated prior to PrepCom 2;
- circulate an indicative list of substantive issues put forward during PrepCom 1 based on discussions in informal working groups and plenary;
- convene a procedural preparatory meeting before PrepCom 2;
- delegations to share position papers on the DOALOS website to facilitate discussions intersessionally; and
- the importance of workshops and seminars to build bridges between differing opinions intersessionally.

# Roadmap: PrepCom2

- a short opening plenary, without general statements;
- five four-hour informal working groups on: MGRs; ABMTs; EIAs; capacity building and technology transfer; and crosscutting issues, including scope;
- the reconvening of plenary to “park” issues on which there is consensus or wide acceptance, and to further discuss others as well as a plenary session to discuss next steps;
- towards the end of the series of PrepCom sessions, a Drafting Committee will ensure that what was agreed is properly drafted; and
- PrepCom 2 to build on, and not repeat, discussions from PrepCom 1.

# Thank you!

