

# Global Ocean Governance: UNCLOS, BBNJ and UN-Oceans

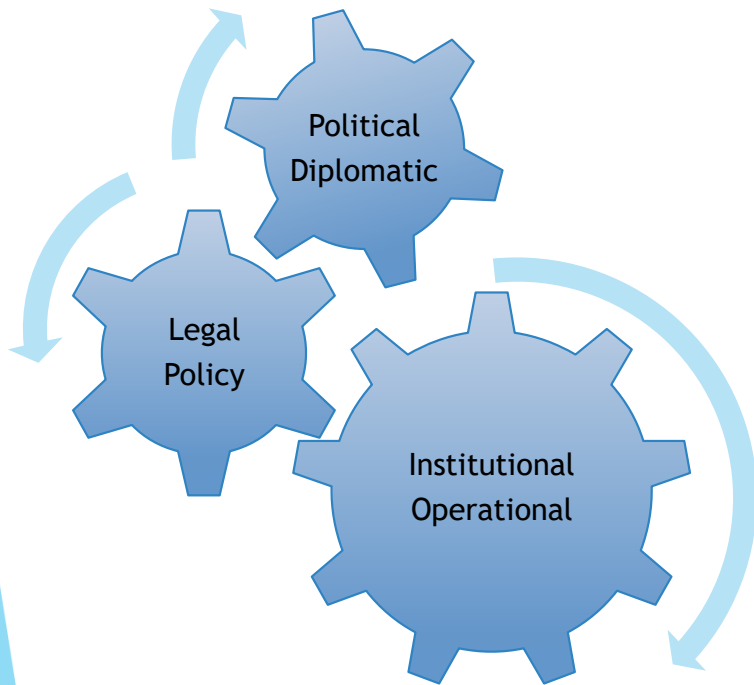
*Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner: Pacific Regional  
Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue  
21-24 August 2023*

*21 August 2023*



DIVISION FOR OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA  
**UNITED NATIONS**

# elements of ocean governance: sectors are managed by frameworks

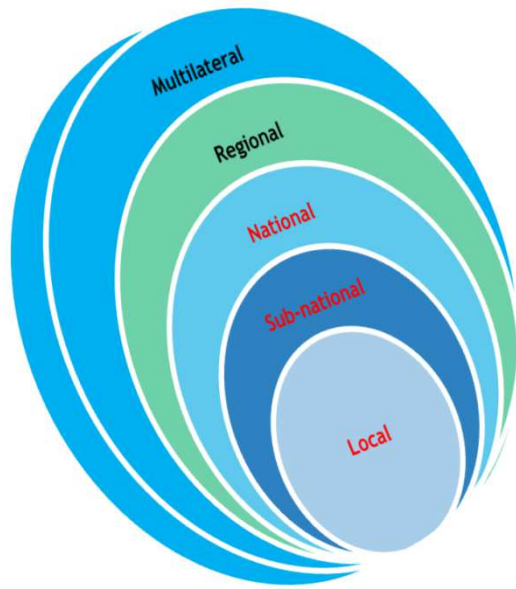


operating in an interconnected manner

There are 3 types of frameworks:

- 1) Political / Diplomatic
- 2) Legal / Policy
- 3) Institutional / Operational

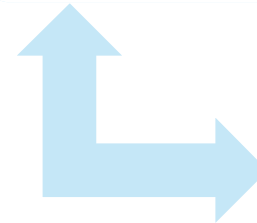
# elements of ocean governance: levels



Each framework also operates at various scales



- Global
- Regional
- Sub-Regional



- State
- Sub-National
- Local

## **The Law of the Sea**

United Nations Convention  
on the Law of the Sea

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with Index and Final Act  
of the Third  
United Nations Conference  
on the Law of the Sea



# United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

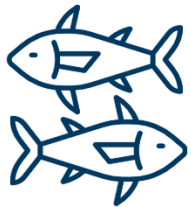
- ▶ 169 Parties
- ▶ Known as “Constitution for the ocean”

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# The “UNCLOS family” - Implementing agreements

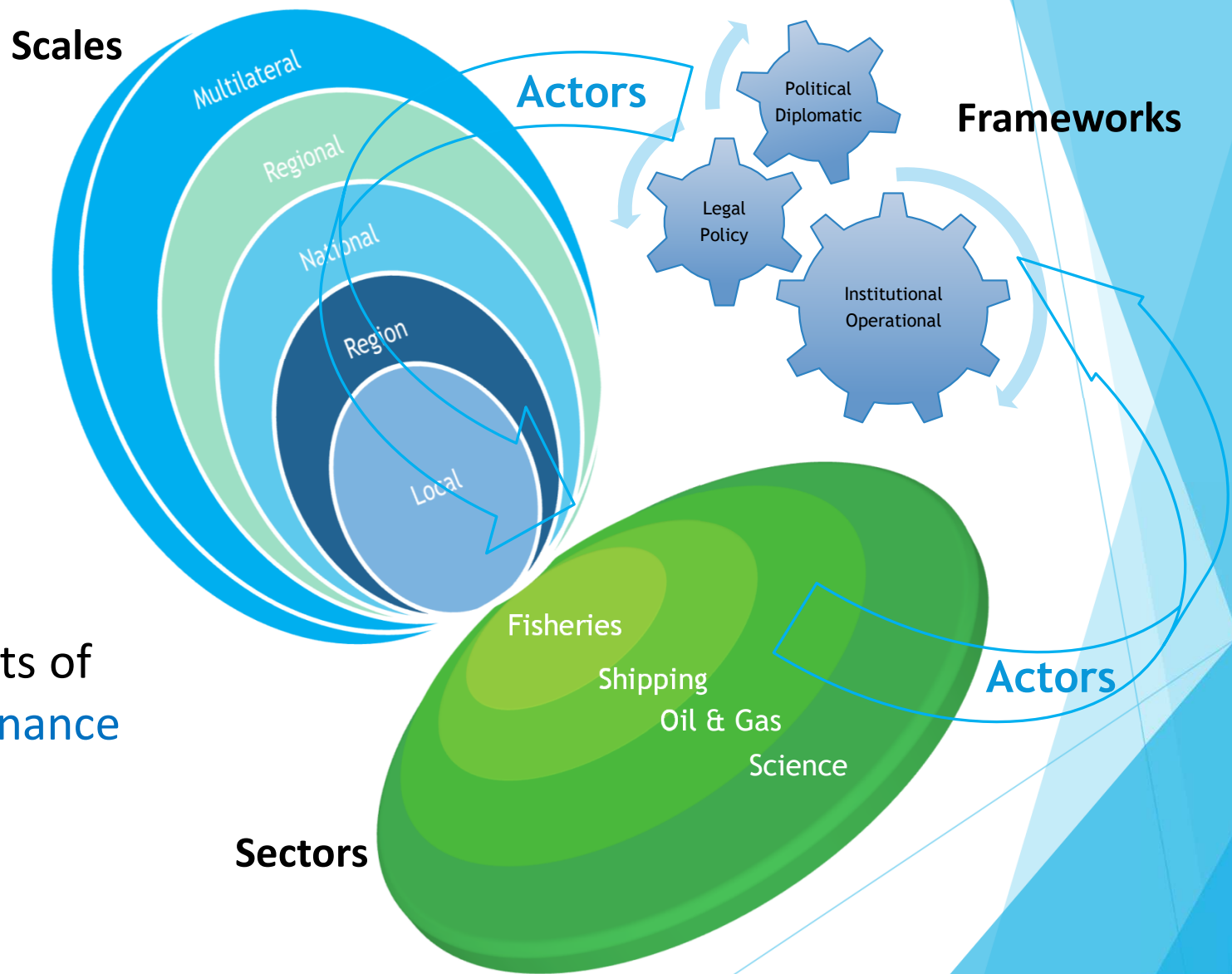


**Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982** *(adopted on 28 July 1994; entered into force on 28 July 1996)*



**United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks** *(adopted on 4 August 1995; entered into force on 11 November 2001)*

# The elements of Ocean Governance



# The BBNJ Agreement

Why is the Agreement important?

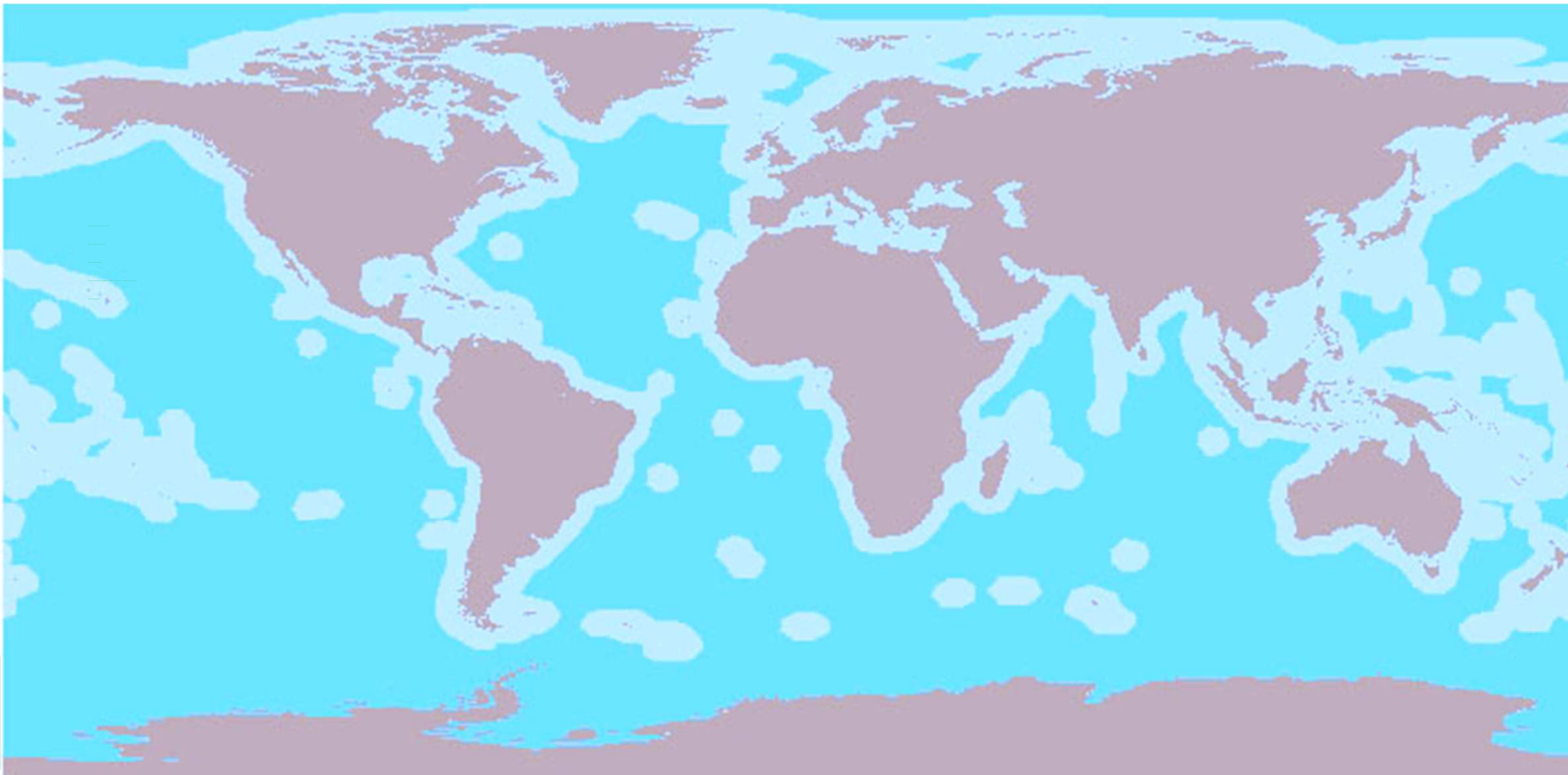
What is in the Agreement?

Why should States become Parties?





# Areas beyond national jurisdiction

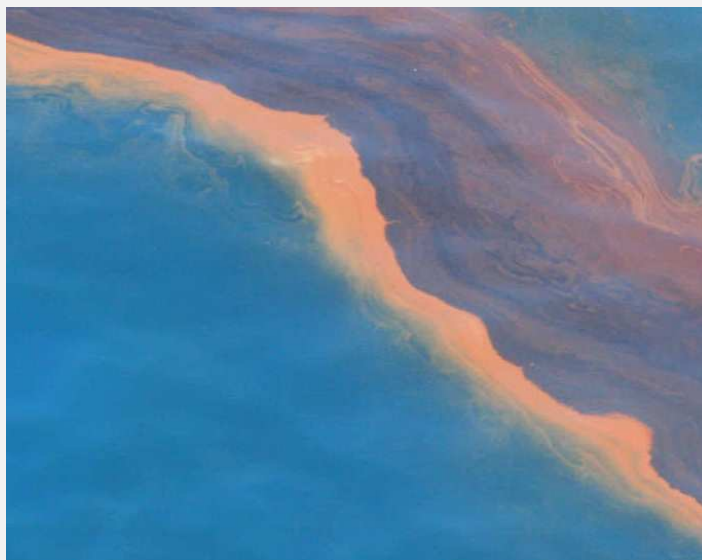




... where  
several threats  
and pressures  
may have a  
cumulative  
impact



ones



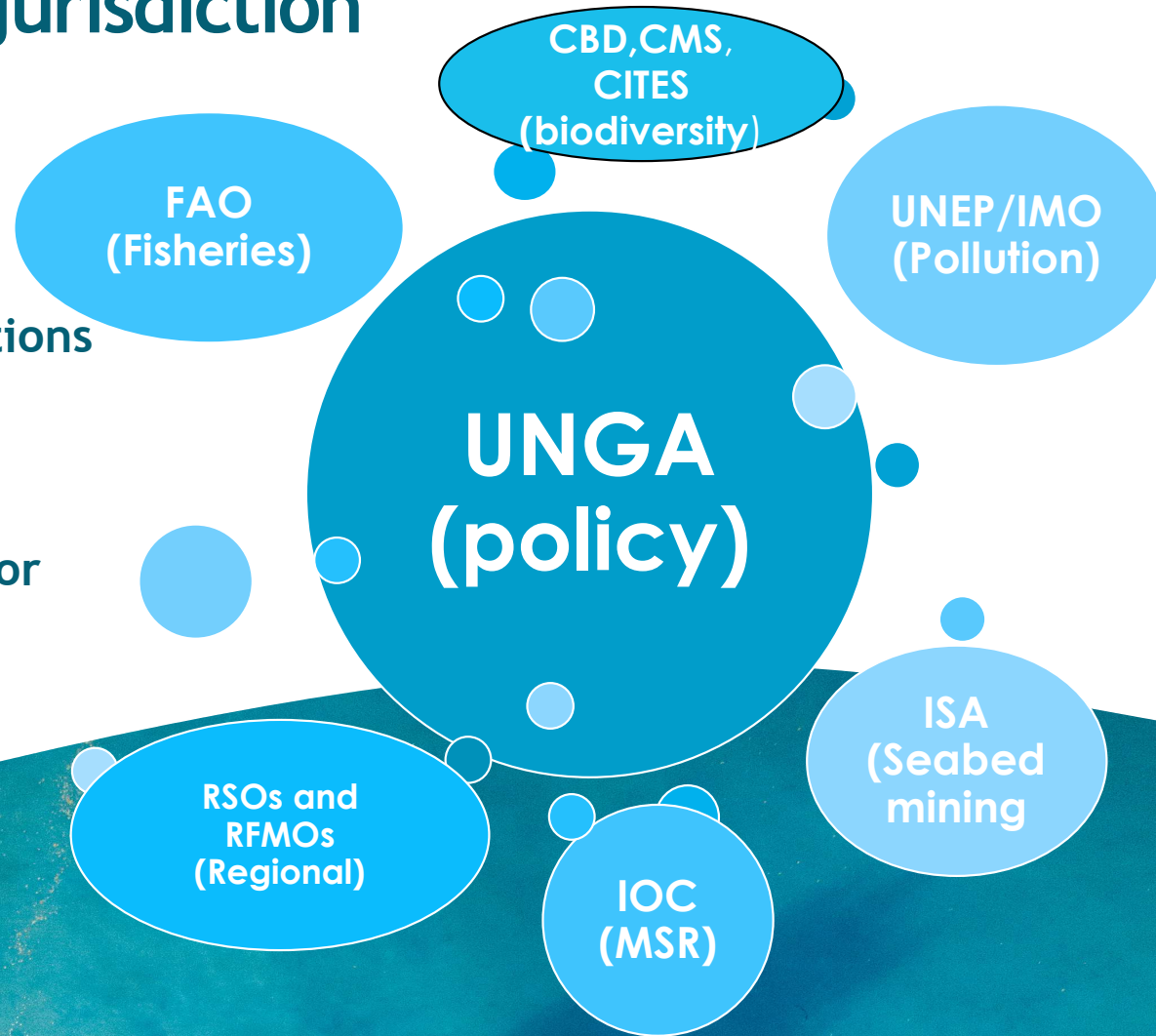
ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  
Coral Reef Studies

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# Areas beyond national jurisdiction

... where several sectoral organizations have competence

... where there is no overall cross-sectoral coordinating mechanism for management



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# Why does the BBNJ Agreement matter?



A new path towards greater equity



A vital step for our planet

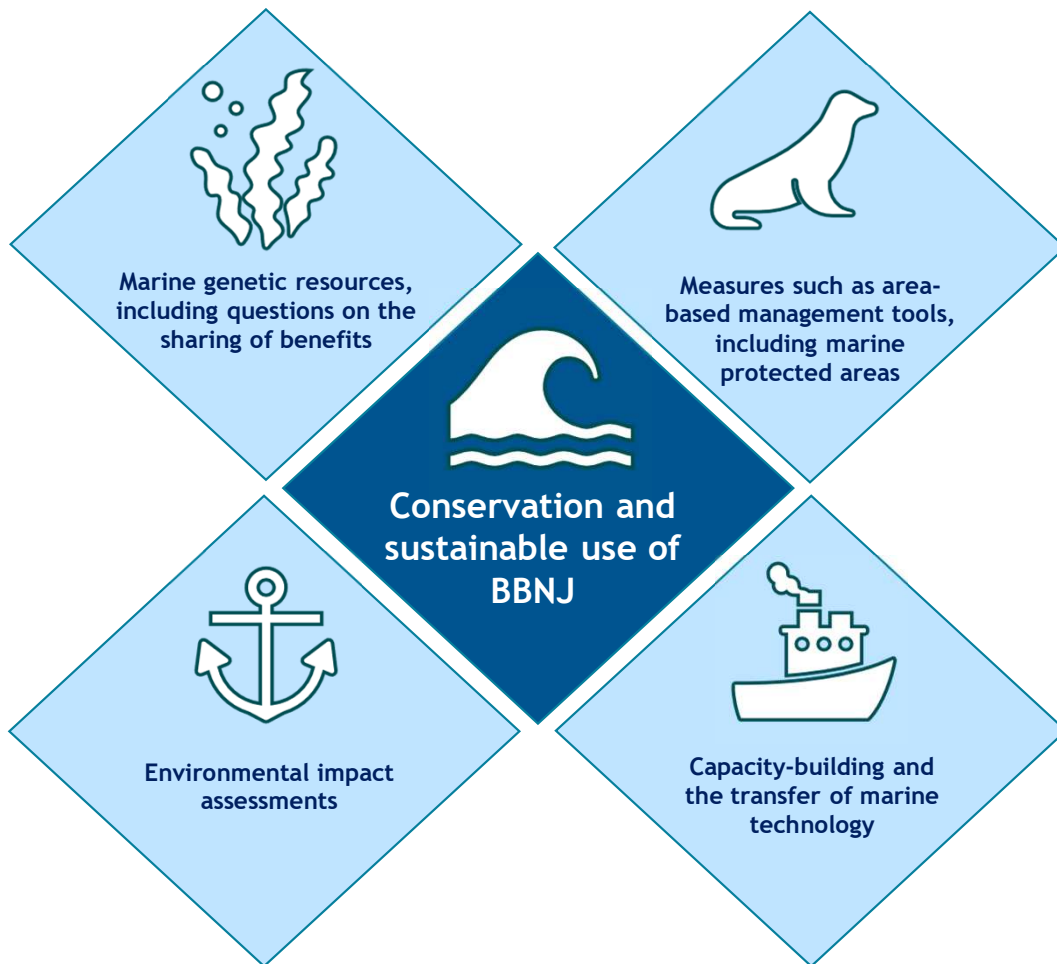


A significant development for ocean governance



A crucial contributor to relevant processes





## Highlights

- ❖ A package of issues (*UNGA resolution 72/249*)
- ❖ *Key principles*
- ❖ *Some “firsts”*

# Summary



Photo: iStock/IvanaOK

- Inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the UN system and the International Seabed Authority
- 29 members: CEB, CITES, CBD, CMS, CTED, DESA, DOALOS, ESCAP, FAO, IAEA, ILO, IMO, IOC-UNESCO, ISA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNODA, UN-OHRLS, UNOPS, UNU, World Bank, WMO, WTO
- The United Nations Legal Counsel/DOALOS as focal point



# Vinaka Vaka Levu

DOALOS webpage:

<http://www.un.org/depts/los>

BBNJ IGC webpage:

<http://www.un.org/bbnj>

