

06 March 2025

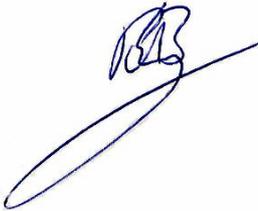
**IOTC CIRCULAR**  
**2025-09**

Dear Madam / Sir

**A COMMUNICATION FROM THE MALDIVES**

Please find attached a communication from the Maldives, regarding and invitation to an Online Awareness Session on the Key Pillars of the BBNJ Treaty and its interface with relevant instruments, frameworks, and bodies.

Yours sincerely



Paul de Bruyn  
Executive Secretary

**Attachment:**

- Communication from the Maldives.

Distribution

**IOTC Contracting Parties:** Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



## Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources

Malé, Republic of Maldives

Ref No: 30/PRIV/2025/45

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Dr. Paul de Bruyn,  
Executive Secretary,  
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission,  
Seychelles

Dear Sir,

I would like to kindly request your assistance in circulating the attached invitation to all IOTC member states for an upcoming awareness session on the BBNJ Agreement and its relevance to RFMOs organized by the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources and High Seas Alliance. The session is scheduled for two hours and aims to provide an overview of the Treaty's key provisions and explore its implications for regional fisheries management.

As you may be aware, the Maldives is working on submitting a proposal on the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement for the upcoming IOTC Commission Meeting. To ensure meaningful discussions at the Commission, we believe it is essential for IOTC members to be well-equipped with knowledge of the Treaty's objectives and its connection to the RFMO framework. This session aims to provide the necessary context, allowing members to better understand how the two governance mechanisms interact and what implications this may have for IOTC.

We hope that this session will provide IOTC members with an opportunity to better understand the Treaty, explore areas of complementarity with RFMOs, and discuss potential pathways for collaboration. The agenda and save-the-date as well as registration details are attached with this letter.

We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this invitation with all IOTC members to ensure broad participation. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any further information.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,

Hussain Sinan, PhD  
Director General

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Ministry of Fisheries  
& Ocean Resources  
Maldives



## Awareness Session on the Key Pillars of the BBNJ Treaty and its interface with relevant instruments, framework, and bodies (IFBs)

**Date:** 10 March 2025, Monday  
**Time:** 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM (EST)  
**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/iotcbbnjsession>

### Background/Context

On 19 June 2023, the intergovernmental conference on 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 adopted the BBNJ Agreement by consensus.

It is the first comprehensive treaty on the high sea and aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long term. It covers marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits; measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; capacity building and the transfer of marine technology.

The Treaty was opened for signature on 20 September 2023, and shall remain open for signatures for two years. The BBNJ Agreement shall enter into force 120 days after the date of deposit of the 60th instrument of ratification.

While the Treaty awaits its entry into force, it is important to take a pro-active approach in sensitizing its key provisions among relevant existing governance mechanisms and bodies to explore areas of complementarity, cooperation, and mutual benefits in achieving their respective objectives.

### Objective

The awareness session aims to increase understanding and appreciation of member states of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission on the role of the BBNJ Treaty in contributing to the sustainable management of fishery resources in the global ocean.

**Speakers:** Dr. Hussain Sinan, Director General of Fisheries Management (Ministry of Fishery and Ocean Resources, Maldives); Rebecca Hubbard, Director (High Seas Alliance); Daniel Kachelriess, Cross-cutting Issues Coordinator (High Seas Alliance); Duncan Currie, Legal Advisor (High Seas Alliance); Nichola Clark, Senior Officer Ocean Governance (The Pew Charitable Trust); Rizza Sacra-Dejucos, Asia Regional Coordinator (High Seas Alliance)



Ministry of Fisheries  
& Ocean Resources  
Maldives



**Moderator:** (from the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources, Maldives)

**Participants:** Government officials from 30 member states of IOTC

Time	Agenda
8:00 AM to 8:10 AM	<p><b>Preliminaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening Remarks</li></ul> <p><b>Hussain Sinan</b> Director General, Fisheries Management Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources Government of Maldives</p> <p><b>Rebecca Hubbard</b> Director High Seas Alliance</p>
8:10 AM to 8:20 AM	<p><b>The Race for Ratification and Preparation for Early Implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BBNJ Treaty Objectives</li><li>• 60 ratifications by UNOC3</li><li>• BBNJ Preparatory Commission Priority Issues</li></ul> <p><i>Rizza Sacra-Dejucos</i> <i>Asia Regional Coordinator, High Seas Alliance</i></p>
8:20 AM to 8:40 AM	<p><b>Overview of the Key Pillars of the BBNJ Treaty and their intersection with Fisheries Governance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Part II: Equitable access to and benefit sharing of marine genetic resources</li><li>• Part IV: Environmental Impact Assessment</li><li>• Part V: Capacity-building and transfer of marine technology</li></ul> <p><i>Daniel Kachelriess</i> <i>Cross-cutting Issues Coordinator, High Seas Alliance</i></p>
8:40 AM to 8:55 AM	<p><b>Overview of the Key Pillars of the BBNJ Treaty and their intersection with Fisheries Governance - Part III. Area-based management tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What does “not undermining” provision mean in the practices of fisheries management frameworks?</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting RFMOs in BBNJ-readiness</li> </ul> <p><i>Nichola Clark</i> Senior Officer for Ocean Governance The Pew Charitable Trusts</p>
8:55 AM to 9:10 AM	<p>Preparing for BBNJ's entry into force: The case of South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation</p> <p><i>Duncan Currie</i> Legal Advisor, High Seas Alliance</p>
9:10 AM to 9:25 AM	<p>Overview of Maldives' draft Proposal on Promoting the Implementation of the BBNJ Agreement</p> <p><i>Dr. Hussain Sinan</i> Director General, Fisheries Management Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources</p>
9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	Open forum; end of the session

Total running time: 2 hours




Ministry of Fisheries & Ocean Resources Maldives

High Seas Alliance

invite you to the

## Online Awareness Session on the Key Pillars of the BBNJ Treaty and its interface with relevant instruments, frameworks, and bodies

10 March 2025, 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM EST



# SAVE THE DATE