

'One Ocean' Symposium

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Information paper

Capacity building and technology transfer for improving governance of marine areas both beyond and within national jurisdiction

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Capacity building and technology transfer (CBTT) are vital for the success of a new international legally-binding agreement on marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. Without effective CBTT, many developing countries are unlikely to be able to fulfill their obligations to participate in international cooperation in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) – and to realize their rights.

CBTT is more effective and resource-efficient if it corresponds to the ecological realities of an interconnected ocean by linking actions taken in coastal areas with those in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ); responds to national priorities related to sustainable development as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 14 on oceans; enables countries to build their blue economies; and provides scientific and technological capacity to underpin holistic ocean management.

To achieve this goal, CBTT would need to maximize cooperation between the large number of international and regional bodies working on ocean issues, as well as initiatives such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). CBTT programs can be tailored to maximize synergies between them, while at the same time addressing issues that are specific to a new international agreement on BBNJ. CBTT could thus enable countries to:

- (a) Participate in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity both in ABNJ and within national jurisdiction.
- (b) Participate in cooperative area-based management in ABNJ, and more effectively apply area-based management within their EEZs
- (c) Undertake and evaluate, environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) both in ABNJ and within national EEZs.
- (d) Access and utilize marine genetic resources through collaborative research in ABNJ, and in their EEZs as part of national research, development and blue economy agendas.
- (e) Enhance national capacity for scientific research and technological innovation through participation in international collaborations, strengthening scientific institutions, and generation, dissemination and sharing of knowledge and technologies.
- (f) Strengthen their capacities for developing and participating in sustainable national blue economies, in accordance with SDG-14 target 7.

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