

REFERENCE: 2025 OLA-TS-DN/DH

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States and non-member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to 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 adopted in New York on 19 June 2023 (the “BBNJ Agreement”). A certified true copy of the BBNJ Agreement can be found at the website of the United Nations Treaty Collection at [XXI-10 CTC](#).

The Office of Legal Affairs has the honour to inform Permanent Missions that a special treaty event will be held on 9 June 2025 in Nice, France, on the margins of the third United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC3) to provide States wishing to do so with an opportunity to sign the BBNJ Agreement and deposit instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval.

It is noted that, consistent with the rules of international law and the practice of the Secretary-General as depositary of multilateral treaties, a Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs does not require full powers to execute a treaty action in person. Where a signature of a treaty deposited with the Secretary-General is to be undertaken by a person other than the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs, duly executed full powers are necessary.

The Secretary-General’s requirements for a valid instrument of full powers include the following:

- Title of the treaty;
- Full name and title of the person duly authorized to sign the treaty concerned;
- Date and place of signature; and
- Signature of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval must also be issued and signed by one of the above three authorities and should include all

declarations and reservations. Model instruments of full powers and ratification, acceptance and approval are available online at: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Resource.aspx?path=Publication/ModelInstruments/Page1_en.xml.

States wishing to sign the BBNJ Agreement or deposit instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval at the special treaty event must notify the United Nations Treaty Section of their intention to do so through their Permanent Mission in New York (email: treatysection@un.org; telephone: (212) 963-5047), and provide signed copies of full powers and instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval for verification, with copies to Ms. Dina Hamdy (email: hamdyd@un.org) by no later than **30 May 2025**.

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of Member States and non-member States to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

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14 April 2025

