

## PROGRAMME

# RATIFYING AND IMPLEMENTING THE BBNJ AGREEMENT: EFFORTS AND CHALLENGES

SIDE EVENT AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE BBNJ AGREEMENT  
PREPARATORY COMMISSION (PREPCOM II)

Hosted by WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute and the  
International Coastal and Ocean Organization (Global Ocean Forum)



**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>  
August 2025**

13:15 - 14:30 (UTC-4)



**United Nations Headquarters,  
New York, United States**

Conference Room 1



**BBNJ PREPCOM II:**

<https://shorturl.at/eIWzx>



Government  
of Ireland  
International  
Development  
Programme



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**WCMC**



Universidad  
Católica del Norte



# INTRODUCTION

This event brings together key leaders and experts working in SIDS and other developing countries that have ratified or are working towards ratification of the BBNJ Agreement, to showcase the efforts and challenges of domestic implementation as well as lessons learnt. Key topics will include aligning domestic policy and legislative implementation with BBNJ Agreement obligations, integrating indigenous knowledge into implementation, regional actions, and maximizing effective use of the Agreement's bodies.

This event will also highlight the need for cross-sectoral, multi-level, and inter-generational collaboration and coordination as well as ongoing advocacy and capacity development activities that would help advance the Agreement's ratification and future implementation. These include the GEF-funded UNEP Cross-sectoral Project and Enabling Activity, and initiatives of the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, among others.

## LOGISTICS

### PARTICIPATION AND INFORMATION

#### ONSITE INFORMATION

United Nations Headquarters  
760 United Nations Plaza, Manhattan  
New York, United States of America

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of any queries, please write to WMU at [goievents@wmu.se](mailto:goievents@wmu.se) (cc [goisecretariat@wmu.se](mailto:goisecretariat@wmu.se)) or to GOF at [mbalgos@globaloceanforum.com](mailto:mbalgos@globaloceanforum.com)

### RELEVANT LINKS

UN BBNJ Agreement Website here:  
<https://shorturl.at/eIWzx>

BBNJ Clinic Programme Website here:  
[bbnjclinic.wmu.se](http://bbnjclinic.wmu.se)

Common Oceans Cross-sectoral Project link here:  
<https://globaloceanforum.com/cross-sectoral-project/>



# EVENT PROGRAMME

Thursday 21 August 2025  
**SIDE EVENT**

13:15 - 14:30 (UTC-4)

Location: UN Headquarters, New York

## 13:15 Welcome & Introduction

**SPEAKER** | **Professor Ronán Long**, Director, World Maritime University-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute

## 13:20 Keynote Address

**SPEAKER** | **Ambassador Nuala Ní Mhuircheartaigh**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Political Affairs, Security Council, Legal, Human Rights, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Disarmament of Ireland to the UN **OR**  
| **Ambassador Dónal Cronin**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN

## 13:25 Panel 1: National and Regional Efforts and Challenges in BBNJ Agreement ratification and implementation

**MODERATORS** | **Professor Ronán Long**, Director, World Maritime University-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute  
| **Dr. Ríán Derrig**, Assistant Professor, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute

**SPEAKERS** | **Ambassador Jerry Enoe**, Ambassador - Special Envoy for Oceans and Blue Economy Advisor, Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Affairs, Government of Grenada  
| **Ms. Angelique Pouponneau**, Ocean Lead, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)  
| **Dr. Kahlil Hassanali**, Senior Research Officer, Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago  
| **Mr. Peni Suveinakama**, Senior Advisor - Ocean Policy and Governance, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC)  
| **Ms. Juliette Babb-Riley**, Charge d'Affaires, High Commission of Barbados to Ghana

*Question and Answer with delegations - 10 minutes*



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## 13:55 Panel 2: Ongoing capacity development initiatives advancing the BBNJ Agreement's ratification

**MODERATOR** | **Dr. Miriam Balgos**, Executive Director, Global Ocean Forum, Project Manager and Capacity Development Specialist, Common Oceans Cross-sectoral Project

**SPEAKERS** | **Mr. Marcelo Olivares**, Director, Institute of Public Policy, Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile

| **Ms. Kristina Thygesen**, Principal Expert, Waste and Marine Litter, GRID-Arendal

| **Dr. Mariamalia Rodríguez Chaves**, Lawyer, Ecosystems Program, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)

| **Dr. Paul de Bruyn**, Executive Secretary, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

*Question and Answer with delegations - 10 minutes*

## 14:25 Wrap-up and closing remarks

**SPEAKER** | **Ms. Susan Gardner**, Director, Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)





# BIOGRAPHIES

## SPEAKERS



### Ronán Long

**Director, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University**

Professor Ronán Long is the Director of the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute at the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden, and holds the Nippon Foundation Professorial Chair in Ocean Governance and the Law of the Sea. He leads a team of specialists that are undertaking a diverse range of projects on land-to-ocean leadership, climate change and the Law of the Sea, biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), marine debris and Sargassum in the eastern Caribbean, robotics and AI in the maritime domain, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

He is the author/co-editor of 15 books and over 100 scholarly articles on oceans law and policy. He read for his PhD at the School of Law Trinity College Dublin, he has been a Senior Visiting Scholar-in-Residence at the University of California, Berkeley, and a Visiting Scholar at the 'Centre for Oceans

Law and Policy' at the University of Virginia. Additionally, Professor Long teaches on the Law of the Sea programme at Harvard Law School.

Prior to his academic career, he was a permanent staff member at the European Commission and undertook over 40 missions on behalf of the European Institutions to the Member States of the European Union, the United States of America, Canada, Central America as well as to African countries. During his previous career in the Irish Naval Service, he won an academic prize at Britannia Royal Naval College and held a number of appointments ashore and afloat, including membership of the Navy's elite diving unit.

As a keen yachtsman, he has represented Ireland at the top competitive level in offshore racing. Ronán is passionate about the law of the sea, conservation and global sustainability, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



### Ambassador Nuala Ní Mhuircheartaigh

**Deputy Permanent Representative, Political Affairs, Security Council, Legal, Human Rights, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Disarmament of Ireland to the UN**



### Ambassador Dónal Cronin

**Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations**



# BIOGRAPHIES

## SPEAKERS



### Ríán Derrig

**Assistant Professor, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University**

Dr. Ríán Derrig is an Assistant Professor at the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute of the World Maritime University. His research focuses on redistribution through international law, and in particular the law of the sea. He is co-principal investigator of two large, multi-year research and capacity-sharing programmes hosted at WMU-GOI, the Ireland & WMU-GOI BBNJ Clinic, and the Future Ocean Programme. Ríán's book, 'The New Haven School: American International Law', was published by Oxford University Press in January 2025.

Before joining the WMU, Ríán was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Global Constitutionalism of the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. Ríán defended his doctoral thesis, 'Educating American Modernists: The Origins of the New Haven School', at the European University Institute in September 2019. He was awarded the 2018 Young Scholar Prize of the European Society of International Law and the 2020 Antonio Cassese Prize for his work on the New Haven School.



### Ambassador Jerry Enoe

**Ambassador - Special Envoy for Ocean, Government of Grenada**

Jerry Jermain Enoe is Grenada's Special Envoy for Oceans and Chairman of the National Coastal and Ocean Governance Committee. He works in marine science, ocean governance, and geographic information systems (GIS), focusing on policy development and sustainable ocean management.

Jerry has represented Grenada at the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and led the country's efforts toward signing the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Treaty. He is also a selected expert for the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) advisory group on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.

His work includes marine spatial planning, habitat mapping, and coastal resilience, with contributions to international and Caribbean regional conferences on ocean governance and sustainability. He has also authored peer-reviewed publications on geospatial applications in marine science and environmental sustainability.



### Angelique Pouponneau

**Ocean Lead, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**

Angelique Pouponneau, a Seychellois lawyer and ocean advocate, is the Lead Ocean Negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). With an LLM in Environmental Law from Queen Mary University of London. She holds a PhD in enabling legal environments for sustainable ocean economies in small island developing

States (SIDS), bringing both academic rigour and practical experience to ocean governance and climate action. Previously, she served as the former CEO of the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust and as Chief of Staff to the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Team.



# BIOGRAPHIES

## SPEAKERS



### Kahlil Hassanali

**Senior Research Officer, Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad & Tobago**

Kahlil Hassanali is a senior researcher at the Institute of Marine Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago with over ten-years' experience in the field of marine policy and governance. He holds a BSc. in Environmental Sciences from the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom), an MSc in Environment and Development from the University of Reading (United Kingdom) and a PhD in Maritime Affairs from the World Maritime University - Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute (WMU-GOI) (Sweden). Additionally, he was

a 2013-2014 recipient of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship where he received advanced training in ocean affairs and Law of the Sea. He has served as lead negotiator for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on Environmental Impact Assessment in the process to develop the BBNJ Agreement. Kahlil is also currently a member of the Legal and Technical Commission of the International Seabed Authority.



### Peni Suveinakama

**Senior Advisor - Ocean Policy And Governance, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC)**

Since 2018 up to the present, Peni has been Oceans Analyst and Manager at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat focusing on leveraging the economic, financial and social bargaining power of the Pacific Ocean and its resources. Prior to joining the PIF Secretariat, Peni was a Principal Foreign Service Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Fiji in 2017-2018 and for four years before that held the position of Second Secretary at

the Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations in New York where he was generally responsible for administrative and managerial responsibilities as Head of Chancery. While in that position, he was also involved in the crafting of National Statements and liaising with relevant stakeholders to progress national issues on the broader global front.



### Juliette Babb-Riley

**Barbados High Commission to Ghana**

Juliette Babb-Riley has been a member of the Barbados Foreign Service since 1991. In July 2013, Ms. Babb-Riley was transferred to the Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations as Deputy Permanent Representative. In 2016, she was appointed Co-Chair of the second cycle of the Regular Process, which produced the Second World Ocean Assessment. And between 2016 and 2023, she served as Barbados' Lead Negotiator and the CARICOM Co-coordinator on the negotiation of 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 jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which was

adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 June 2023.

In September 2021, Ms. Babb-Riley was transferred to the High Commission of Barbados in Ghana as Chargé d'Affaires and currently serves as its Deputy Head of Mission.

Ms. Babb-Riley is the holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree (Hons) in History and Political Science, and a Bachelor of Laws degree (Hons) from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, a Master of Science degree in International Studies from the University of Southampton in Southampton, UK and a Master of Laws in International Law from the University of Ghana.



# BIOGRAPHIES

## SPEAKERS



### Miriam Balgos

**Executive Director, Global Ocean Forum, Project Manager and Capacity Development Specialist, Common Oceans Cross-sectoral Project**

Miriam Balgos is Executive Director of the Global Ocean Forum (GOF) and concurrent Project Manager-Capacity Development Specialist of a GEF-funded UNEP project on developing capacity for cross-sectoral management and governance of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Formerly Associate Scientist at the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, University

of Delaware and GOF Program Coordinator, Miriam's work focused on integrated ocean and coastal management, marine protected areas, ABNJ, and ocean and climate change. Miriam received her B.Sc. in Fisheries and M.Sc. in Marine Biology from the University of the Philippines, her M. in Business Administration and Ph.D. in Marine Studies, University of Delaware.



### Marcelo Olivares

**Director, Institute of Public Policy, Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile**

Marcelo serves as the Director of the Institute of Public Policy at Universidad Católica del Norte (UCN) in Coquimbo, Chile. He holds a MSc. in Environmental Economics and Climate Change from the London School of Economics, a Master of Economics from the University of Sydney and a B. Sc. in Business Administration from UCN.

With over 15 years experience in economic development and the valuation of ecosystem

services, Marcelo also leads, together with the Chilean National Agency for Research and Development (ANID), efforts to strengthen science and technology based on the idea of natural laboratories in the Chilean Sea. His research interests include climate action, science-policy interface, economics and governance of socio ecological systems, local and regional development, non-market valuation, and the socioeconomics of ABNJ and capacity building.



### Kristina Thygesen

**Principal Expert, Waste and Marine Litter, GRID-Arendal**

Kristina has dedicated her career to exploring how scientific insights can inform equitable and sustainable management of our planet's resources. Her journey has taken her from Denmark's flat terrains to the Alps' peaks, across oceans, and into the

depths of seabed governance and mining practices. At GRID-Arendal, she has contributed to the Continental Shelf Programme, assisting developing nations in defining their maritime boundaries under the UN Law of the Sea.

# BIOGRAPHIES

## SPEAKERS



### **Mariamalia Rodríguez Chaves**

**Lawyer, Ecosystems Program, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)**

Mariamalia Rodriguez is Costa Rican and an attorney with AIDA's Ecosystems Program, working from San José. She received her law degree from the University of Costa Rica, where she also completed a Master's degree in Environmental Law. She also holds a PhD in Law from the National University of Ireland, Galway. Mariamalia has significant experience working with environmental non-governmental organizations and as an

independent consultant on various environmental issues. In addition, she is a member of the Group of Experts of the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects (Regular Process) and of the Legal and Technical Committee of the International Seabed Authority.



### **Paul de Bruyn**

**Executive Secretary, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

Dr Paul de Bruyn is the Executive Secretary at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) secretariat, at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a position he has held since July 2023 having previously been Science Manager since 2018. He started his career assessing small-scale fisheries and developing operational management procedures for invertebrate fisheries on the East Coast of South Africa. He then moved to Spain, where he joined the Basque research foundation AZTI Tecnalia and was

responsible for carrying out assessments for tuna and tuna-like species at both IOTC and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), as well as advancing management strategy evaluations for temperate tuna stocks in the Atlantic Ocean. He later joined the ICCAT secretariat where for six years he was the By-catch Coordinator and later head of the Department of Research and Statistics. Paul holds a Doctorate in Marine Science with a focus on stock assessment and management strategy evaluation.



### **Susan Gardner**

**Director, Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Ms. Susan Gardner has three decades of experience in international environmental policy working for both the Mexican and United States governments. Before joining UNEP, she was a senior official in the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration focused on fisheries and natural resource management. Prior to this position, she was Deputy Director of the Office of Science and Technology

Cooperation in the U.S. Department of State where Dr. Gardner led efforts on Advancing Women and Girls in Science and established the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women. Based on her contributions to the Global Mercury Partnership and the Minamata Convention, she was awarded the Gold Medal for Exceptional Services from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



# BIOGRAPHIES

## ORGANIZATION TEAM



### Elnaz Barjandi

**Programme and Operations Manager, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University**

Elnaz Barjandi is the Programme and Operations Manager at the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute. She leads and is responsible for the GOI operations and events team as well facilitates the Institute's operational management including donor relations and reporting. She is responsible for the coordination and organization of all conferences, events and outreach activities for capacity building for the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute. She supports the senior management with strategic development efforts and the successful delivery of the programme of work under the Ocean Research Agenda. Elnaz joined the Institute in April 2018.

Prior to joining WMU, Elnaz worked at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Denmark for 5 years as the

Operations and Administrative lead, where she managed the general operations, and coordinated the ICT and Green Energy service delivery to 170+ UNDP Country offices worldwide.

Elnaz has a BSc. and MSc. in International Business and Politics from Copenhagen Business School. She is an alumni of the Rhodes Academy of Ocean Law and Policy 2019, as well as a recipient of H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf's Foundation's Value-based Leadership Diploma 2014 and Fulbright's European Student Leaders Scholarship 2008.

Elnaz has a keen interest in sustainable development, international diplomacy and strategy, ocean governance, as well as capacity building, organisation and leadership for human empowerment and equality.



### Zaynab Salih

**Project and Engagement Assistant, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University**

Ms. Zaynab Salih joined the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute in September 2024 as Project and Engagement Assistant. In her role, Zaynab particularly supports the Ireland-WMU BBNJ Clinic Programme team with implementation of the efforts as well as stakeholder engagement, project coordination and organisation of outreach events, and undertakes the administrative matters of the programme. Zaynab also supports the implementation of the WMU-GOI's overall project and outreach efforts of the Ocean Research Agenda.

Prior to joining WMU, Zaynab worked in the Media & Entertainment Industry as an Executive Assistant. In her latest role at the Walt Disney Company Nordic & Baltic, in Copenhagen, Zaynab was the executive assistant to the CEO and leading the Social Corporate Responsibility taskforce in planning and executing initiatives across the

Nordics. Before that, at Viaplay Group, Zaynab was the executive assistant to the Chief Commercial Officer Nordics, Chief People & Sustainability Officer, and Chief Sports Officer simultaneously. She further assisted the Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Corporate Communications for a period of time and contributed greatly to the people & culture agenda across the organization.

Zaynab holds an LLB (Hons) degree in Law with Business Management from Edinburgh Napier University - where she served as Law Class and School President and as member and later President of the Young Trustees Society. She was also selected to participate in the Get on Board Programme by the Association of Corporate Governance Practitioners Ltd and obtained a Certificate of Corporate Governance.



### Ambre Pilet

**Project and Communications Fellow, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University**

Ambre has joined the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute as Project and Communications Fellow in 2025. In this capacity, she supports the project's research and capacity-building initiatives by creating communication materials, visual designs, and event strategies.

She holds a License in Information and Communication, a Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts, and a Master's degree in Cultural Communication and Museum Studies. During her academic journey, she deepened her understanding of the intersection between these fields and sustainability, notably writing a thesis on theatre festivals and their transition to more sustainable practices.

Prior to joining the WMU, she gained experience in various cultural organizations in France and internationally. For instance, she worked on communication strategies, event management, and graphic design for festivals, such as the Festival International Nuits d'Afrique in Canada, and the Festival d'Avignon in France, where she contributed to eco-responsibility initiatives.

She later worked as a Community Manager for a cultural youth agency and served as Communications Manager at Fryshuset Malmö, overseeing digital and print communications and organising a breaking festival. After this role, she co-created and managed content for a community page about Malmö.











# Global Ocean Forum Secretariat

**Dr. Miriam Balgos**  
Executive Director

**Ms. Catie Mitchell**  
Policy Analyst

**Ms. Erinn Bell**  
Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain Ocean and Climate Change Intern

**Ms. Siena Zisa**  
Joint Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute – Global Ocean Forum Intern

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**Global Ocean Forum:** <https://globaloceanforum.com/>

**Common Oceans Cross-sectoral Project:**  
<https://globaloceanforum.com/cross-sectoral-project/>



World Maritime University  
PO Box 500  
S-201 24 Malmö Sweden  
[www.wmu.se/goi](http://www.wmu.se/goi)  
[goisecretariat@wmu.se](mailto:goisecretariat@wmu.se)

The World Maritime University was  
established in 1983 within the framework  
of the International Maritime Organization,  
a specialized agency of the United Nations.