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**IOC WG on
BBNJ**

**IOC officers
meeting 2026**

BBNJ process so far ...



Entry into force: 17 January 2026



First meeting of the Conference of the Parties: to be convened by the UN Secretary-General no later than one year after the entry into force of the Agreement



DOALOS to perform interim secretariat functions, 3 proposals received for permanent Secretariat

BBNJ Agreement Preparatory Commission

❖ Established by UNGA Resolution 78/272 of 24 April 2024

The Commission:

- Shall **prepare** for the **entry into force** of the BBNJ Agreement and the **convening of COP1**
- **Open** to all UN Member States, members of the specialized agencies and parties to UNCLOS, as well as observers
- **Meetings:** 2 sessions held in **2025** + at least one session in **2026** (23 March – 2 April)
- **Decision-making:** after 20 September 2025, the taking of decisions by the Commission shall only be by States and regional economic integration organizations that have signed the Agreement or have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Agreement

IOC WG Terms of Reference (adopted by 33rd IOC Assembly)

The IOC Working Group on BBNJ is established to provide scientific and technical advice on matters related to the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement within the IOC mandate, and in particular:

- (i) Develop recommendations for IOC's potential role in the operationalization of BBNJ e.g., for area-based management tools; EIAs; capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology; and marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
- (ii) Identify, in cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of legal Affairs of the United Nations acting as secretariat for the BBNJ Agreement, and promote IOC's role and contributions towards the establishment and operation of the future BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism;
- (iii) Review and analyze scientific, technical, and capacity development aspects of the BBNJ Agreement relevant to the IOC;
- (iv) Identify needs and modalities to be delivered through IOC mechanisms to support Member States, particularly developing countries, in capacity development initiatives relevant to BBNJ implementation, in cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of legal Affairs of the United Nations acting as secretariat for the BBNJ Agreement.
- (v) Propose strategies and mechanisms for enhancing data sharing and cooperation across national and regional institutions, including through IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies.
- (vi) Propose mechanisms for cooperation between IOC and BBNJ Agreement



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Membership of the WG-BBNJ (based on CL nominations)

26 Experts nominated by IOC MS

Group I : **7 experts** (Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Türkiye, UK)

Group II : **2 experts** (Russian Federation, Ukraine)

Group III: **5 experts** (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico)

Group IV: **7 experts** (Bangladesh, PR China, Japan, Rep. Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam)

Group V: **5 experts** (Djibouti, Mauritania, Morocco, Kuwait, Senegal)

Nomination from IOC Subsidiary bodies/joint programmes:
GEBSCO, WESTPAC, IOCAFRICA, GOOS, OBIS, IODE



Schedule of meetings

2025

WG-BBNJ # 1: Introduction/kick off - 15 December 2025

2026

WG-BBNJ #2 : In Depth focus - 20 February 2026

3rd BBNJ Preparatory Commission (23 March – 2 April)

WG-BBNJ # 3 : In Depth focus - April 2026 (tbc)

WG-BBNJ Reporting to IOC Executive Council (29 June- 4 July)

WG-BBNJ # 4 : In Depth focus – August/Sept 2026 (tbc)

1st Conference of Parties (second half 2026, tbc)

WG- BBNJ #5 : In Depth focus – Nov/December 2026 (tbc)

2027

2 Meetings of WG-BBNJ in 1st half of the year

WG-BBNJ Reporting to 34th IOC Assembly and decision to continue/adapt/terminate the WG

The WG may also establish Task Groups to address specific issues. These will meet online at their own convenience/schedule



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Work programme of the IOC WG BBNJ



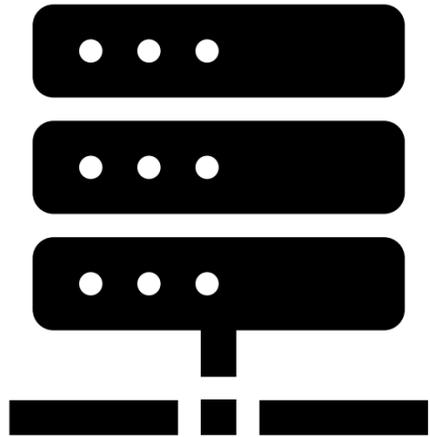
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- **What should be the focus of the next WG session (In Depth session)?**
 - February 2026: CHM
 - April 2026: Data/Obs and CD
- **What should be the outputs of these Sessions?**
 - Understanding the landscape and IOC's comparative advantage in a given area
 - Understanding of **capacity development needs** of MS (science community, decision makers, and managers) in specific area
 - **Recommendations for technical/scientific specifications** to enhance IOC products, services and CD for BBNJ application, including areas in need of additional support and resources
 - **Key messages** to convey to IOC and UN MS engaged in the BBNJ process (incl though events)
- **Agreement to** establish small Task Groups who can address these outputs and prepare the discussion with the wider WG (eg on CD, CHM).

Clearing-House Mechanism



PREPCOM 3: Modalities for the operation of the CHM, such as:

- a. Type, architecture and functionalities of the platform
- b. Process for generating the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier
- c. Modalities to facilitate the matching of CB needs with the support available and with providers for the TMT
- d. Terms of cooperation with relevant IFBs

- Serve as a **centralized platform to disseminate information** on activities taking place pursuant to the Agreement
- **Facilitate matching** of capacity-building needs with support and providers for the transfer of marine technology
- **Provide links** to other clearing-house mechanisms, repositories and databases
- **Build on** global, regional and subregional clearing-house institutions
- Foster enhanced **transparency**
- Facilitate **international cooperation and collaboration**
- Perform other functions as determined or assigned

IOC's two-phased approach to the operationalization of the BBNJ's Clearing-House Mechanism (TBC -

Phase 1: Setting up a Digital Asset Management System CHM's Minimum Viable Product (MVP)

Delivering the CHM's baseline requirements with a focus on time- and cost-efficiency

Digital Asset Management System (public access and role-based authenticated login)

Information management

Content

- Documents
- Events (meetings, cruises)
- CB/TMT offers and demands

Actors

- People
- Organisations
- Groups (committees, expert groups)

Identifiers

- Unique identification system for actions / assets (including Standard Batch Identifiers)

Administration / controls

Access & permissions

- Login
- User authentication
- Role management

Security & continuity

- System security
- Backups & recovery

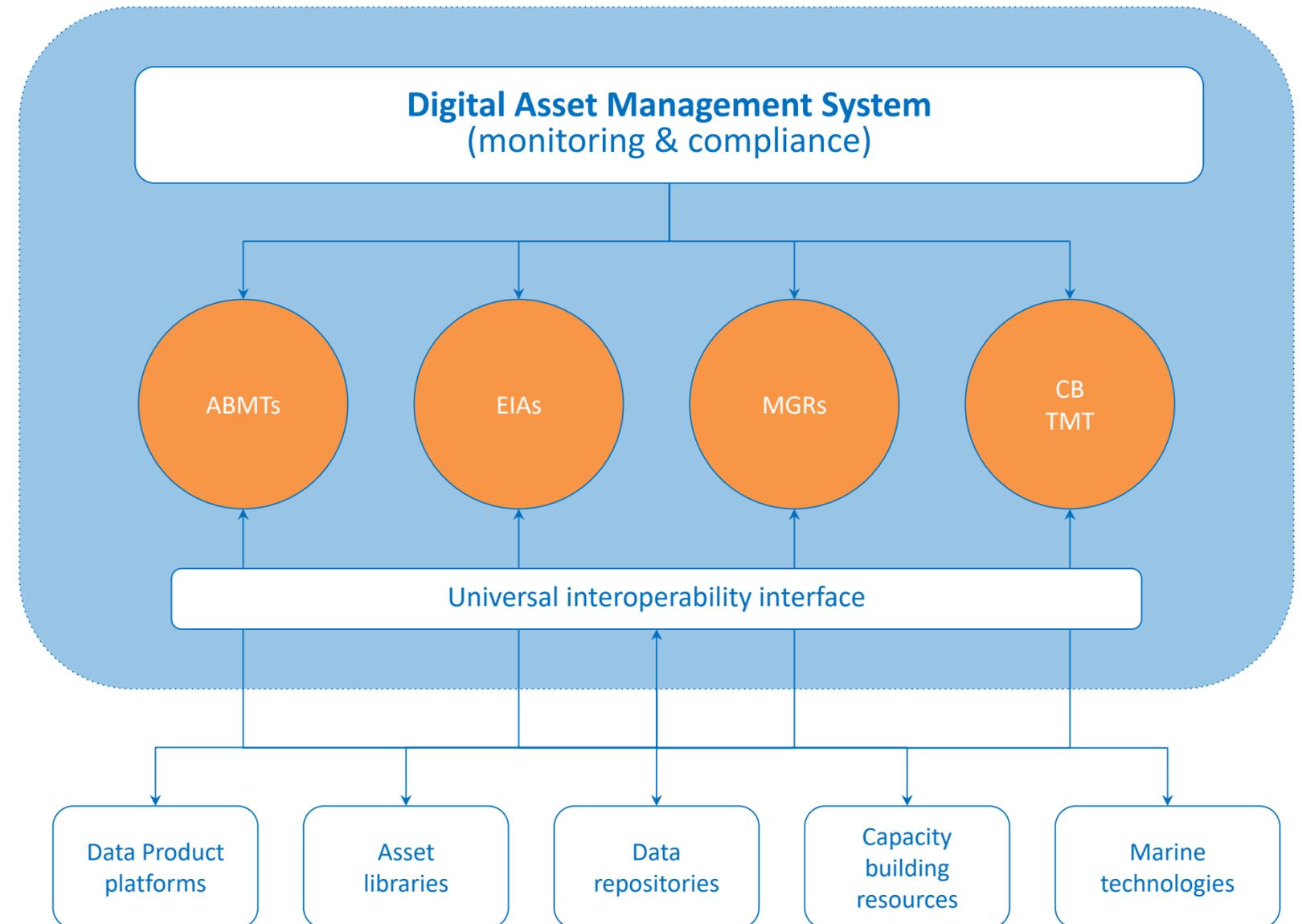
Workflow

- Review and commenting
- Versioning
- Notifications/alerts (updates, deadlines, consultation windows)
- Matchmaking

IOC's two-phased approach to the operationalization of the BBNJ's Clearing-House Mechanism

Phase 2: Ocean Intelligence (a fully operational CHM)

A fully operational CHM that connects and integrates existing resources and systems through a system-to-system interface



IOC, a partner to support the Clearing-House Mechanism of the BBNJ Agreement

Takeaways messages

- The success of the BBNJ clearing-house mechanism depends on baseline requirements: **inclusivity, security and safety, transparency and traceability.**
- IOC is a **neutral partner with a global mandate, connected with the regions**, and has demonstrated its **longstanding capacity to coordinate and operate** large, global data-driven initiatives that **deliver information, tools and services to support evidence-based decision-making.**
- Further explore a two-phased delivery model including financial implications, IOC could propose a **realistic approach to a rapid Clearing-House Mechanism operationalization**, with a Phase 1 MVP that can be **ready within one year provided resources are available.**





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THANK YOU

