

**Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292 “Development of 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”**

**First session  
28 March to 8 April 2016  
UNHQ, New York**

**Information for participants**

Pursuant to resolution 69/292 of 19 June 2015, the Preparatory Committee established to make substantive recommendations to the General Assembly on the elements of a draft text of 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 will hold its first session from 28 March to 8 April 2016, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

**Invitations**

Invitations to the meeting were sent at the beginning of February 2016 to States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with others invited as observers in accordance with past practice of the United Nations. According to that practice, only entities that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly pursuant to its relevant resolutions, intergovernmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or inscribed on the roster for the purposes of the work of the former Commission on Sustainable Development will be invited.

**Working documents**

The provisional agenda and the provisional programme of work for the meeting will be made available in all official languages on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS), in due course.

**Side events**

Dedicated time will be made available for side events at lunch time during the first session of the Preparatory Committee. Requests for side events will be accepted **until 26 February 2016**. Such requests must be made by filling-in the dedicated request form available on the website of DOALOS, and should be addressed to the Secretary of the Preparatory Committee, at [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org), with an indication of the title, organizing institution(s) and preferred dates for the event. The subject of the message should specify the following: “Request for side event: Preparatory Committee”. It is recalled that organizing institutions and/or sponsors of side event(s) are responsible for the payment of relevant costs associated with the use of equipment and services for the side event.

Owing to the limited number of time slots available, the Division may not be able to accommodate all requests for side events or preferred dates. It therefore reserves the right to suggest the organization of joint side events should competing requests be received for the same day. Should the number of requests exceed the number of available days, the Division will exercise its discretion in selecting side events with a view to ensuring variety in the topics covered by the side events.

**United Nations Grounds Passes**

Information on the procedure to be followed by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to obtain passes to access United Nations premises for the duration of the session was included in the letter of invitation to the first session of the Preparatory Committee.