

**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**

**Fourth session**  
**10 to 21 July 2017**  
**UNHQ, New York**

**Information for participants**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 69/292 of 19 June 2015 and 71/257 of 23 December 2016, the 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 will hold its fourth session from 10 to 21 July 2017, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

**Invitations**

Invitations to the meeting were sent on 2 May 2017 to all Member States 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 the 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 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 fourth session of the Preparatory Committee. Requests for side events will be accepted until **16 June 2017**.

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. It is also recalled that only those entities entitled to participate in the Preparatory Committee can request side events.

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. The Division will aim to accommodate up to two side events per day in order to ensure that events are well attended. Should the Division receive more requests than it can accommodate on a given date, the Division will exercise its discretion in assigning time slots to side events, taking into account the subject matter of the events and the requesting organization in order to ensure a balance between States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Should the number of requests exceed the total number of available time slots, the Division will exercise its discretion in selecting side events with a view to ensuring variety in the topics covered by the side events. Based on past experience, it is expected that the Division will receive substantially more side event requests for the first week, in particular, Tuesday and Wednesday (11 and 12 July), than it will be able to accommodate and therefore encourages delegation to consider alternative dates.

**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 will be included in the letter of invitation to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

**Trust Fund**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/292, a special voluntary trust fund was established for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the meetings of the Preparatory Committee. Further information including on the application process and the application form are available at: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/bbnjtf/index.htm>