



Adopt ambitious goals

The upcoming IGC4 is a critical opportunity to consolidate progress made since the last in-person IGC in August the Conference of Parties and protects marine biodiversity while also accommodating and respecting the rights and of present and future generations of humankind and the ocean. For this purpose, negotiators should feel empowered to be BOLD, VISIONARY as well as PRAGMATIC. Suggestions from a December 2021 IUCN-convened workshop follow.

BOLD Message 1

Considering the urgent need to rebuild global ocean health, productivity and resilience and safeguard marine life in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), it is crucial that all States and other stakeholders cooperate to conclude an ambitious BBNJ Agreement as soon as possible.

subsequent IGC session should take place in 2022.

VISIONARY Message 2

benef ts for humankind and the ocean beyond

The Global Ocean is a "commons" whose health is a shared interest of all humanity. If the international community is to act collectively to safeguard marine biodiversity, all States require the capacity to study,

ABNJ. However, inequality is a pervasive concern including with regards to data, information, technology, resources

management. Capacity, technology, skills and information transfer and data sharing supported by sustained and adequate funding are urgently needed to address knowledge inequities and gaps.

PRAGMATIC Message 3

Time for climate smart management

Climate smart measures are needed now to stem cumulative effects, build resilience, protect climate refugia and accommodate the redistribution of species and ecosystems over time. The management of the ocean should thus be based on the best climate science and reflect that all parts of the ocean are interconnected. In addition to MPAs, the BBNJ Agreement could enable the evolution of innovative ABMTs like dynamic closures and migratory corridors, based on systematic assessments, cross-sectoral spatial planning, monitoring and adaptive management to respond to monitoring results.

BOLD Message 4

Breaking silos and fostering engagement

To foster cross-sectoral engagement, the BBNJ Agreement can play an essential role by facilitating integrated planning and management. The BBNJ agreement can for

stakeholders in an inclusive and transparent manner, and channel collective ambition. It will complement the

transformative change we need to safeguard ocean life amidst a rapidly changing climate.

VISIONARY Message 5

Need for systematic approaches

Systematic approaches will be essential in the design and effectiveness of climate-smart, representative and connected networks of MPAs and other ABMTs. Coupling a socio-economic assessment with an ecosystem diagnostic assessment can better link natural systems with human activities. At the same time, good management requires good information and shared

via the future clearinghouse mechanism in the BBNJ Agreement will be key.

PRAGMATIC Message 6

Mechanisms to facilitate a proposal

be needed to address differing interests, build knowledge and trust, encourage early collaboration to enable access

support for buy-in to conservation measures. States may wish to consider establishing or designating a lead institution/s with dedicated funding and specially trained facilitators to help coordinate work with stakeholders, including coastal States, other States, sectoral bodies,

Communities, and civil society.

BOLD Message 7

Powers of the COP

To enable timely action, the COP will need a clear mandate to adopt measures even where there are other bodies, as these other bodies may be slow, reluctant, blocked by one

precaution and "sustainability". While consensus-based decision-making approach is the optimal objective, a pragmatic mechanism for majority-voting procedure is needed to ensure timely progress.

BOLD, VISIONARY AND

PRAGMATIC Message 8

Effective financial support is the linchpin of progress

Funds will be needed at multiple stages of ABMT

knowledge, collect relevant commercial data, convene stakeholders, and support consultative processes. Cost-

still poor at including the costs of no-action (biodiversity

mechanism for ABMT proposals will be vital to maintain momentum and ambition throughout the proposal process and later implementation.



For more information and a copy
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