

Environmental Impact Assessments

- Objectives:
 - Operationalize UNCLOS by establishing processes, thresholds & other requirements for conducting EIA; bring coherence
 - Promote use of EIA & adoption of BBNJ standards
- Scope: Activities/impacts occurring within/beyond national jurisdiction
- Tiered process: screening, scoping, assessment, prevention/mitigation
 - Equivalent processes under other bodies
- Notification and consultation processes; role for the STB
- Reporting: EIA report, monitoring

State Party

- Conducts process & makes final decision

Conference of the Parties

- Develop mechanism for collaboration with other bodies via STB
- Upon request, provide advice on whether activity can proceed

Clearing-House Mechanism

- Facilitate access to information: Party must submit a range of notifications, draft reports, justifications & responses to comments

Scientific and Technical Body

- Input to the process; provides comments
- Develop standards/guidelines
- Considers final reports “for the purpose of developing guidelines”

- ✓ A welcome update to UNCLOS, strengthens obligation & defines process
- ✓ A tiered assessment system
- ✓ Detailed, future-proof provisions, e.g.
 - Cumulative impacts
 - Best available scientific information, traditional knowledge
 - Includes economic, social, cultural & human health impacts
 - Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)
- ✓ Strong focus on consultation & transparency
- ~ Decision-making stays in the hands of States