



Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy

Male', Republic of Maldives

Press release: Maldives Ratifies the BBNJ Agreement,

24th September 2024

The Government of Maldives is pleased to announce its ratification of the Internationally Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Treaty). This decision was made after careful consideration by the parliament, which reviewed the proposals submitted by the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy to join the convention.

Maldives signed the Agreement earlier this year, at a ceremony held in the United National Headquarters in New York on 3 September 2024.

The components of legally binding agreement for the protection and sustainable use of marine biological diversity and areas beyond national jurisdiction have been negotiated from the years 2016 to 2023. A legal instrument was finally adopted on 19 June 2023 at the General Assembly in the form of an Agreement.

As a large oceanic state, this agreement is pivotal for the Maldives in strengthening our ambition for ocean conservation. Through the emphasis on special circumstances of SIDS and least developed countries in the importance of capacity building and technology transfer, the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement seeks to strengthen efforts of small states to manage and conserve ocean resources.

As a nation, we stand to gain significant advantages in increasing our ecological connectivity, ensuring responsible implementation of projects in marine protected areas and securing fair and equitable sharing of benefits in areas beyond national jurisdiction through the implementation of this ambitious agreement.

Maldives becomes the 9th country to ratify the Agreement, and the Agreement remains open for signature by all countries until 20th September 2025, and will enter into force 120 days after the 60th country has ratified the Agreement.