

**Symposium on the  
“Role of Legislature in Ensuring a Strong Regime for  
Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions or BBNJ  
Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”**

Makati Diamond Residences | 29-30 August 2024

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAM**

29 August 2024 (Day 1)

9:00 – 9:45 AM	<b>Registration</b>
9:45 – 9:50 AM	<b>The Philippine National Anthem</b>
9:50 – 10:10 AM	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p>Welcome Remarks <b>Assistant Secretary Patrick A. Chuasoto</b> Office of Policy Planning and Coordination Department of Foreign Affairs-<i>confirmed</i></p> <p>Keynote Address <b>Secretary Enrique A. Manalo-confirmed</b> Department of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Special Video Message <b>Ambassador Rena Lee-confirmed</b> President, UN Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)</p>
10:10-10:15 AM	<b>Photo Session</b>
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Health Break
10:30 AM –12:00 PM	<p><b><u>Panel 1</u>      <b>BBNJ Agreement: Why it Matters?</b></b></p> <p><i>This session will provide the context on the importance of the BBNJ Agreement and why it is necessary to have a global legal framework to regulate the high seas. This session will also discuss salient features of the BBNJ Agreement.</i></p> <p><b>Speaker 1:</b> <b>Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim-confirmed</b> (15 mins) Executive Director ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity</p> <p><b>Speaker 2:</b> <b>Ms. Sarah L. Bales-confirmed</b> (15 mins) OIC Assistant Division Chief Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries</p>

	<p><i>Speaker 3:</i> <b>Ms. Rizza Sacra-Dejucos-confirmed</b> (15 mins) Asia Regional Coordinator High Seas Alliance</p> <p>Panel Discussion / Reaction (40-45 minutes) <i>Moderator:</i> <b>Assistant Secretary Marshall Louis M. Alferez</b> DFA-Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office-confirmed</p>
12:00 – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 PM	<p><b><u>Panel 2</u></b>    <b>The Complementing Role of the Legislature in the Process of Ratifying and Implementing Multilateral Treaties and Advancing the Rule of Law in the Maritime Domain: The Case for the BBNJ Agreement</b></p> <p><i>This session will tackle the roles of national legislatures in the ratification process of multilateral treaties and conventions in the maritime domain, and in ensuring that appropriate legislative measures and policies are adopted/enacted to implement these legal instruments. In particular, the panel will focus on countries'/regional bodies' role in promoting a rules-based maritime order, highlighting the added value of the recently concluded BBNJ Agreement towards these efforts.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers 1:</i> <b>Antonio G. de Guzman, Jr.-confirmed</b> (15 mins) Director General, Office of the International Relations and Protocol, Senate of the Philippines</p> <p><i>Speaker 2:</i> <b>Mr. Alain Tellier-confirmed</b> (15 mins) Senior Advisor Global Affairs Canada - Canada</p> <p><i>Speaker 3:</i> <b>Mr. Eduardo Cavalcanti de Mello Filho-confirmed</b> (15 mins) Research Associate, Ocean Law and Policy National University of Singapore-Center for International Law - Singapore</p> <p>Panel Discussion / Reaction (40-45 minutes) <i>Moderator:</i> <b>Ambassador Teresita C. Daza-confirmed</b> DFA Spokesperson</p>
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Health Break

<p>3:15 – 5:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Panel 3</b>    <b>Impact of the BBNJ Agreement on Maritime Policies of States and Relevant Regional Instruments, Frameworks, and Bodies</b></p> <p><i>The session will examine the legal implications of the BBNJ Agreement on maritime policies of states, and its resulting relations with existing legal frameworks on oceans governance in the regions. This session will also highlight how the BBNJ Agreement complements UNCLOS and other international maritime agreements.</i></p> <p>Speaker 1:    <b>Senator Aquilino Pimentel III-confirmed</b> (15 mins)    Senate of the Philippines</p> <p>Speaker 2:    <b>Mr. Kenneth Wong-confirmed</b> (15 mins)    Senior State Counsel Attorney-General's Chambers - Singapore</p> <p>Speaker 3:    <b>Ms. Priya Bhanu-confirmed</b> (15 mins)    Attorney Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State - United States</p> <p>Speaker 4:    <i>Expert from Republic of Korea (TBC)</i> (15 minutes)</p> <p>Panel Discussion / Reaction (40-45 minutes) <i>Moderator:</i>    <b>Ambassador Maria Angela A. Ponce-confirmed</b> Philippine Embassy to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Head, Philippine BBNJ Negotiating Team</p>
<p>5:05 PM</p>	<p><b>Cocktail Reception</b>            Hosted by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs</p>

30 August 2024 (Day 2)

9:00 – 9:30 AM	<b>Registration</b>
9:30 – 10:30 AM	<p><b><u>Panel 4</u>      The Race for BBNJ Ratification and Subsequent Implementation: Challenges and Opportunities</b></p> <p><i>This session will talk about the required actions to speed up the ratification of the Agreement across the globe. This session will also focus on implementation challenges as well as opportunities for collaboration and cooperation, including capacity-building and transfer of marine technology in support of developing States Parties.</i></p> <p><i>Speaker 1:</i>    <b>Congresswoman Maria Rachel J. Arenas-confirmed</b> (10 mins)      House of Representatives - Philippines</p> <p><i>Speaker 2:</i>    <b>Dr. Marie Antonette Juinio-Meñez-confirmed</b> (10 mins)      Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines</p> <p><i>Speaker 3:</i>    <b>Cdr. P K Srivastava -confirmed</b> (10 mins)      Scientist G / Program Head Ministry of Earth Sciences - India</p> <p>Panel Discussion /Reaction (25-30 minutes) <i>Moderator:</i> <b>Undersecretary Drusila Esther E. Bayate</b> Department of Agriculture-confirmed</p>
10:30	Health Break
10:45 – 11:45 AM	<p><b><u>Panel 5</u>      Prospects for Inter-State Parliamentary Cooperation for a Strong BBNJ Regime in the Indo-Pacific</b></p> <p><i>The BBNJ Agreement expects to foster international cooperation between and among states and institutions at various levels, which presents opportunities for national legislatures or parliaments to cooperate to ensure the effective implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. This session will explore possible cooperation frameworks among national legislatures towards common marine environmental goals.</i></p> <p><i>Speaker 1:</i>    <b>Senator Risa Hontiveros-confirmed</b> (10 mins)      Senate of the Philippines</p> <p><i>Speaker 2:</i>    <b>First Assistant Secretary Katrina Maguire-confirmed</b> (10 mins)      Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Australia</p>

	<p>Panel Discussion / Reaction (35-40 minutes)  <i>Moderator:</i> <b>Atty. Jacqueline Joyce F. Espenilla-confirmed</b>  Senior Fellow, University of the Philippines-Institute  for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea</p>
11:45 – 12:00 PM	<p><b>Synthesis and Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assistant Secretary Marshall Louis M. Alferez-confirmed</b>  DFA-Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office</li> </ul>
12:00 PM	End of Symposium Day 2