



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

2025 United Nations Ocean

Tenth Plenary meeting and closing of the Conference

Closing remarks

by Ms. Elinor Hammarskjöld

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and legal matters**

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Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Alors que nous concluons la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l’océan de 2025,
j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter quelques réflexions finales.



Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'exprimer ma sincère gratitude aux gouvernements français et costaricien pour leur vision et rôle de premier plan dans l'organisation de cet événement historique dans la belle ville de Nice.

Mes remerciements vont également aux autorités régionales, municipales et locales pour leur engagement exceptionnel afin de nous accueillir chaleureusement.

Ces derniers jours, nous nous sommes réunis pour relever les défis les plus urgents auxquels l'océan est confronté.

Ces défis sont réels et, comme l'a déclaré le Secrétaire général de l'ONU à l'ouverture de cette Conférence, nous vivons une époque de bouleversements.

Toutefois, nous avons pu observer ici un engagement authentique et tangible.

Cette Conférence a souligné le lien indissociable entre l'océan et l'avenir de l'humanité. Elle a mis en évidence le rôle fondamental de l'océan, non seulement comme source de vie et de ressources, mais aussi comme un levier de solutions essentielles : qu'il s'agisse de sécurité alimentaire, de résilience climatique ou de développement durable.





Parallèlement, elle a souligné une vérité fondamentale : assurer la conservation et l'exploitation durable de l'océan et de ses ressources est notre responsabilité commune.

Mr. President, to all of you: government representatives, youth, indigenous people, local communities, academia, scientists, industry leaders, and civil society at large—I extend my deepest appreciation. Your dedication and unwavering commitment have been the driving force behind making ocean governance more inclusive, ensuring that every voice is heard and every perspective represented.

Thanks to your efforts, the hope for the ocean and for multilateralism grows stronger. Together, we are shaping a future where cooperation leads to real, lasting change.

As reflected in the Declaration just adopted, there is a clear reaffirmation of the strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use our ocean, seas and marine resources

One of the cornerstones of these efforts will be the BBNJ Agreement which has been a special highlight of the Conference.





The adoption of this historic agreement was hailed as a major achievement for the ocean, for multilateralism and the United Nations. Its swift entry into force and effective implementation will be a vital step towards reversing destructive trends facing the ocean and restoring ocean health, addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

During this Conference various States from all regions undertook treaty actions under the BBNJ Agreement bringing us, in total, to 136 signatures and 51 ratifications, including 50 States and the European Union. At this point, I am glad to announce that only 10 ratifications are needed for the Agreement to enter into force.

The Secretary-General has urged all delegations to ratify the Agreement and make the most of this momentum toward its swift entry into force.

The United Nations will continue to work with all of you to make the BBNJ Agreement and its implementation a reality.

The Nice Ocean Action Plan – made up of the political declaration adopted by the Conference and the list of voluntary commitments – provides a solid roadmap for our future action. The many commitments must now be translated into concrete action.





We must continue to be guided by international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework within which all activities in the ocean and seas must be carried out.

Several critical milestones are ahead of us in that regard:

In August, negotiations will resume for the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Also in August, the Preparatory Commission established by the General Assembly to prepare for the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement will be continuing its fundamental work.

Also, the International Seabed Authority will continue its essential work toward the adoption of regulations providing the required framework to ensure the sustainability of activities in the Area.

Mr. President, as we leave this conference today, let us carry forward the momentum built during these days in Nice, to accelerate ocean action, guided by the principle of cooperation and respect for international law.

The ocean cannot wait!

Thank you. Muchas gracias.

