

Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on
Biological Diversity, 21 October –1 November 2024

“Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework:
How UN-Oceans can support States in meeting their obligations under the

UN-Oceans side event

Thursday, 24 October 2024, 16:30-17:50

GRULAC Room, Plaza One

Speaker biographies (in order of appearance)

[Stephen D. Mathias](#) Acting Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and
UN Legal Counsel, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed D. Stephen Mathias of the United States as Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs. Mr. Mathias is the head of the Office of Legal Counsel and assists in the overall supervision of each of the units of the Office. Mr. Mathias was previously the Director of the General Legal Division in the Office of Legal Affairs since May 2010. Before joining the United Nations, he had 23 years of experience in international law. He served at the United States State Department for 20 years, including as Assistant Legal Adviser for United Nations Affairs. From 1992-1996, Mr. Mathias was the Counsellor for Legal Affairs at the United States Embassy in The Hague, where a focus of his work was the International Court of Justice and the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. From 2007, he served as General Counsel to the Multinational Force and Observers, which supervises the implementation of the Security Annex to the 1978 Treaty between Egypt and Israel. Before joining the public sector, Mr. Mathias worked from 1981-1987 in private legal practice. Mr. Mathias was educated at Georgetown University and Columbia Law School, where he first studied for a Bachelor of Science in foreign service and then for a Juris Doctor.

within the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment, ranging from bilateral and multilateral relations to chemicals, oceans, and the water industry, including as Director of Strategy; Head of Unit for Global Sustainability, Trade and Multilateral Agreements; Head of Unit for Marine Environment and Water Industry; and Head of Unit for Chemicals and Nanomaterials, among other roles. Astrid is fluent in English, French and German.

[Milena Benavides Serrato, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible
Dirección de Asuntos Marinos, Costeros y Recursos Acuáticos](#)

Marine Biologist with a Master's degree, Ph.D., and postdoctoral degree in Science-

[Ronald Rodriguez, Programme officer at the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers \(ICSF\), Philippines](#)

Ronald Rodriguez is a Programme Officer at the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) working on the intersection of ~~small~~ fisheries, climate change, and biological diversity. He is following the UN processes and meetings under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on behalf of the ICSF. His decade of experience in the fisheries sector advancing the rights and welfare of ~~small~~scale fishing communities ~~has~~ allowed him to work closely with local communities, ~~non~~governmental organizations, the private sector, and government entities. His expertise ranges from organizational and enterprise development to policy development and advocacy in agriculture and fisheries.

[Jeremy Raguiar, Advisor, Republic of Seychelles](#)

Jeremy Raguiar is a Seychellois conservationist who will commence work with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as a Senior Programme Officer (BBNJ Treaty) on 1st November 2024. Since completing the Alliance of Small