



UN-Oceans side event

-Oceans can support States in meeting their obligations under the GBF with a focus on the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus, including development and

16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Cali, Colombia, 21 October – 1 November 2024

Statement by Mr. Stephen Mathias, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel and UN-Oceans Focal Point

As delivered by Ms. Charlotte Salpin, Senior Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs


**24 October 2024
16:30, Sanquianga - GRULAC meeting room**

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

Friends and colleagues,

On behalf of Mr. Stephen Mathias, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, and UN-Oceans Focal Point, it is my great pleasure to open this UN-



related to the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus, both individually and through inter-agency cooperation. By leveraging our collective expertise, UN-Oceans members also support States in meeting their commitments in this regard, including through the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. These efforts are supplemented by various other actors, including civil society and, increasingly, youth organizations, also represented in the event today. In discussing such support, panellists will also highlight how coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities are being strengthened to maximize the impact of ocean-related actions and promote innovative solutions to address not only biodiversity goals but also contribute to climate resilience and ocean sustainability.

I look forward to an insightful and constructive exchange of ideas as we work together to ensure that the Global Biodiversity Framework becomes not just a vision but a reality, one that will help protect and sustainably use our ocean and the biodiversity it sustains for generations to come.

Thank you.