

Statement by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Second session of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity

ports are in compliance - and here I am reiterating that it applies equally to all ships regardless of flag and regardless of whether the flag state actually ratified the instrument in question.

With regards to the monitoring and review of adopted measures, IMO launched Member State Audit Scheme to review how effectively IMO treaties are implemented by States Parties. The Member State Audit Scheme has been a successful vehicle to monitor Member States' compliance with area based management tools designated by IMO and has assisted greatly Member States in fulfilling their obligations.

Based on the framework and responsibilities set out in UNCLOS, IMO Member Governments have established a comprehensive regime for international shipping aiming at protecting the marine environment, which includes several options for area based management tools, all firmly based in globally binding IMO instruments.

IMO believes that the future BBNJ instrument should acknowledge IMO's primary authority for the designation of area based management tools concerning international shipping activities. Any new tools developed under the future BBNJ instrument should be complimentary in nature and not undermine the designation procedure of IMO's own tools.