Madam President, thank you.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of CLAM, the African Group and CARICOM.

Over the last few days, much have been discussed about collection of, access to and utilization of MGRs, including commercialization of products thereof. However, we should not fail to remember that the BBNJ Agreement is also about conservation, sustainable use of MGRs, as well as fair and equitable sharing of benefits, especially for developing States.

In the opinion of the African Group, CARICOM and CLAM, comprising 83 member States, besides the delegations that have expressed support for our proposals, ‘access’ to MGRs should be understood under a broader definition, including ‘collection’ of in situ and ‘access’ to ex situ, ‘derivatives’ and other forms of storage, including DSI. By starting from a broader definition, the BBNJ system will be more likely to guarantee sustainability and traceability of activities related to MGRs.

We support the establishment of an access and benefit-sharing mechanism (ABSM) combined with a clearing-house mechanism (CHM), which, in our view, will operationalize benefit-sharing and ensure more transparency to the system. Notifications of both access and utilization should be done through an open and self-declaratory electronic (the)(1)-(s)(1)9an)(49.9TmRs,)(1)-2(m)6y aran