



You have, once again, delivered impressively on your undertaking to support our work. It is now up to us, in this room, to put the legwork in, to turn your document into our document.

Of course, a lot of work remains to be done. We will have to narrow down our differences on a number of complex issues. We will also have to proceed with a careful review of the draft text as a whole, to ensure that the international treaty we are producing is of high quality, clear, and coherent -- as demanded by such an important and formal document. Canada looks forward to bringing ideas and innovative ways forward to tackle those problems, in support of the most effective solutions.

I will conclude here, Madame President, as we have so much to do. Let me simply reiterate that our delegation is looking forward to the many hours we will spend together, with you and the rest of our colleagues, over the course of the next two weeks. No single state, no matter how big or how strong, can succeed by acting in isolation. We all need to work together. We are eager to get to work under your able direction, to progress on our ever so important common goal of completing the BBNJ Agreement.

Madame President,

We are ready to go!

Thank you.