



President 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 of  
areas beyond national jurisdiction

4 June 2021

The draft decision first recalls, in the preambular paragraphs, the mandate of the conference and explains the rationale for the postponement. The first operative paragraph of the draft decision aims to provide sufficient flexibility in terms of scheduling of the fourth session in 2022 in light of the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, while bearing in mind that the conference is at a critical stage and should be in a position to continue its work to develop the instrument as soon as possible. Making a decision on dates for the fourth session in the context of the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea, which is usually adopted in December each year, would not provide the sufficient lead time for the organization of the conference at the earliest possible date in 2022 in light of the anticipated heavy calendar of meetings, in particular ocean meetings, next year.

The second operative paragraph aims to ensure, having regard to the need to maintain the momentum of the process and the wish of many delegations to continue with intersessional work in the interim period, that the secretariat can provide the necessary support and services for such work, i.e., to defray the costs of three to four online discussions from the budgetary resources allocated in 2021. It is understood that such a cost would be relatively minimal. It is also understood that any intersessional work that I may decide to undertake, following further consultations with the bureau and delegations, will continue to be designed to assist delegations to enhance their understanding of the issues and the views of different delegations and is not intended to be a substitute for the negotiations, which will resume during the st40.r t nand

Seventy-fifth session  
Agenda item 76(a)  
Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Draft decision

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 of areas beyond national jurisdiction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [72/249](#) of 24 December 2017, in which it decided to convene an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of 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 of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible, and also decided that, initially with respect to 2018, 2019 and the first half of 2020, the conference shall meet for four sessions of a duration of 10 working days each,

Recalling its resolution [72/249](#) of 24 December 2017, in which it decided to convene an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of 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 of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible, and also decided that, initially with respect to 2018, 2019 and the first half of 2020, the conference shall meet for four sessions of a duration of 10 working days each,