



- **Madam President;**
- **Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives;**
- **Distinguished Delegates:**

**Madam President**

I would like to thank you and congratulate you on behalf of the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on successfully delivering a draft text of a future agreement on a new legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in

areas beyond national jurisdiction. The content of your draft is a good reflection of the effort you made to ensure all views are captured. We believe your draft text will enable us to start text-based dialogues and discussions which is a very critical milestone in moving forward towards establishing an agreement in a less distant future.

**Madam President,**

Malawi, as the chair of the LDCs, recognizes that the conservation and sustainable management of the ocean is critical for our economies, livelihoods and most importantly the very survival of humankind. Malawi is not only an LDC but also a land-locked country. Some may wonder how is the ocean so relevant to Malawi. Over 80%

beyond national jurisdiction must be recognized as the common

The new instrument must ensure that current state of play where the