



UNITED NATIONS

Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument



Distinguished delegates,

The path to this day has been long but fruitful. It took us through extensive discussions within various processes established by the General Assembly on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas ~~areas~~ ~~areas~~ y areas





The importance of the sustainable use and conservation of the oceans and seas and marine resources for sustainable development is not in doubt. Sustainable oceans and seas can contribute to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work. At the same time protecting the marine environment, including marine biodiversity, will help build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Distinguished delegates,

At this first substantive session, we are set to begin negotiations in earnest with the view to reaching a common ground on the difficult questions before you.

I witnessed the collegial environment that prevailed at the Organizational Meeting held in April, at which you reached agreement on important organizational matters. I have no doubt that your negotiations at this session will be conducted in a spirit of cooperation in recognition of the vital importance of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

I wish you, Madam President, every success with the cooperation and collaboration of all Conference participants, in achieving the important and ambitious instrument that “We the people” and our planet need.

You can be assured of my continued collaboration and that o(n)g)3(-)5(t)3(h)3(e)8(-)14)3(m)17(p

