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Madam President,

Nigeria fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Palestine on behalf of the G77 and China as well as the statement by Algeria on behalf of the African Group.

Nigeria wishes to congratulate you, **Excellency Ms Rena Lee**, the IGC President, the Secretariat and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, for the tremendous work in the elaboration of the draft text of an agreement 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. We wish to express our delegation's appreciation, satisfaction and admiration to you and your team for the conclusion of the draft agreement as well as for

As we enter into this phase, Nigeria wishes to re-emphasise its usual position of unwavering commitment to the retention of clear text and unequivocal language on the topic of Capacity Building and the Transfer of Marine Technology especially for developing countries to include workable funding and implementation mechanisms. This is necessary if we must maximise the benefits from the abundant resources of the ABNJ.

Finally, Madam President,

Nigeria again reiterates our trust in your able guidance in working us through successfully in the next two weeks even as we assure you of our full cooperation with you as usual. Nigeria is willing and open to cooperate and dialogue with all delegations and partners while remaining flexible for us to get the most out of this third Session.

I thank you!