

**Norway. Opening statement at the Intergovernmental Conference on an internationally
binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Ms President,

We are all acutely aware of the threats posed by climate change and misuse of the marine environment and resources such as pollution, acidification and overfishing. There is no doubt

management of marine biodiversity and the environment. The point is that we already have management mechanisms with the necessary legal powers – what we need is a more integrated approach to managing areas beyond national jurisdiction, where conservation and use are assessed together, with a view to improving conservation outcomes and promoting more sustainable use of resources. We need to connect the dots and build on the work of

institutions we have already established. The new agreement that we are about to make can perform an important function by establishing clearer obligations regarding cross-sectoral cooperation, such as the sharing of information and experience, unified procedures for environmental impact assessments and area-based management tools and mechanisms that

Ms President,

Norway depends on the oceans for its development. In recognition of this, the Government

the oceans in Norwegian foreign policy. In addition, Prime Minister Erna Solberg has established a High-level Panel titled Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy, which will have its first meeting later this month here in New York. In line with this, Norway will work to secure a new agreement under which all parties assume increased responsibility for integrated oceans management and cooperation in this area with a view to implementing effective measures to protect the oceans.

Work will also be done to develop a common framework for discussions, which provides us with a