



at the

New York, 4 September 2018

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"Check again

marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Let us remind ourselves of the universal high aim

... of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is the legal framework for the sustainable use of the oceans and their resources. ...

Madame President,

For Papua New Guinea, as a maritime and archipelagic developing State, what matters in marine areas beyond our national jurisdiction are as important to activities within our marine areas of national jurisdiction, given the symbiotic relations.

It is also for this reason that in the Pacific region, our Pacific Islands Forum leaders, under the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape, with a motto of "Our Sea of Islands, Our Livelihoods, Our Oceania", recognised, prioritised and mandated us in 2014 to support the establishment of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of the marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

We are committed to this endeavour and to reach it, international cooperation is pivotal. This was, again, underscored yesterday by our regional leaders in