



Madam President,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. As a new chapter of history begins today, allow me first, to express how pleased my delegation is to see you presiding over this Conference. We appreciate your efforts and would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Madam President, for preparing the aid to discussions paper, which will serve as a good basis for further

deliberations. We believe that this paper, together with inputs and comments from the substantive discussions at this very first IGC session, will pave the way towards the constructive preparation of a zero draft of the instrument. In this regard, please be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

3. As we are at the preliminary stage of the preparation of a zero draft,

commodity, all fish in the high seas should be governed by the principle of the common heritage of mankind. We believe that, by adhering to this principle, the new instrument will be able to harmonize conservation and management