

**CLOSING STATEMENT
BY
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Conference for an
international legally binding instrument 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**

(18 March 2022, New York)

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Madam President,

We would like to join other delegations in expressing our gratitude and appreciation to you and the Secretariat for the invaluable work you have undertaken to ensure the holding of this Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Conference to elaborate a legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Turkey, as a developing peninsula country, attaches utmost importance to this critical process, and has been actively and constructively participating in the negotiations since day one. Needless to say, our participation has been based on the understanding that the BBNJ process aims for universality and is open to all UN Member States regardless of their legal status *vis- - vis* UNCLOS, in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 72/249.

As the adoption of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 is approaching, the BBNJ agreement is ever more relevant.

This agreement will indeed complement our collective efforts for conserving and sustainably using biodiversity in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

As a party to various international and regional instruments in the fields of biodiversity and

