

PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

by

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before the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on  
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

Agenda item 5

General exchange of views

New York, 18 March 2022

As delivered

Madam President,

1. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Madam President and the Secretariat for convening this fourth session of the Intergovernmental Conference despite the difficulty resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation. I also wish to commend your work on the preparation of the revised draft text of the BBNJ Agreement, which served as a concrete basis for further negotiations and allowed for a fruitful and constructive discussion among participating States. I also thank you, Madam President, on your capacity as Facilitator during the Informals, and I also thank the other highly capable facilitators. Your able facilitation greatly contributed to the progress of our work.

Madam President,

2. For Thailand, the principle of the common heritage of mankind has been our compass since the First UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. It was during that Conference, on the 24th of February 1958, that one of the greatest and most visionary Thai diplomats, Prince Wan Waithayakon, the Foreign Minister of Thailand, was elected as its First President. And in his inaugural address to the Plenary, he said that "the sea is the common heritage of mankind. It was therefore in the common interest that the law of the sea should be certain, should regulate justly the various interests involved and that it should ensure the preservation of that heritage for the benefit of all."

national jurisdiction as part of the common heritage of mankind will guarantee that the benefits arising from their utilization are shared fairly and equitably between developed and developing countries.

4. Moreover, priority, particularly when engaging in capacity building and the transfer of marine technology cooperation, should be placed on the needs and special requirements of developing countries.

6. Lastly, in order to effectively complement the needs of developing countries and enhance the implementation of capacity building cooperation, it is important that we should strive to be more committed to our existing obligations under Part XIII and XIV of UNCLOS. Therefore, the provision of capacity building and the transfer of marine technology by the draft instrument will be most beneficial to all if such provisions are mandatory since they are pivotal to the collective achievement of the overall objective of this Agreement.

Madam President,

7. In closing, and looking ahead, please allow me to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation for the next IGC. We hope that full support and active participation among countries aimed at achieving well-being outcomes and interests for all groups and countries will lead to greater prosperity in the use of marine biological diversity that can be sustained and shared by all, and ultimately in the successful conclusion of a legal instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ.

Thank you.

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