

BBNJ IGC4 Friday 18 March 2022 UK Concluding Comments

- Thank you Madam President. Under your able leadership and with the support of our Facilitators and the Secretariat, the United Kingdom has felt a strong sense of purpose in our work over these two weeks.
- Delegations have worked hard in this room and in the many informal gatherings that have brought together different delegations and regional groups.
- We are grateful to the many delegations who came with a willingness to understand the differing positions, to work on text that can bridge those differences and, crucially, to heed your call on Day One, Madam President, to focus on direction, not detail.
- To consider what we really need in the text of the Agreement, and what could best be left to a future Conference of Parties to determine, and to achieve a clear, implementable text.
- It is in that spirit that that the UK tabled proposals to rework the ABMT and MGR Parts of the draft text. We have had good discussions across delegations and regional groups on these issues and we believe that we are in a better place now than at the beginning of last week.
- We have also listened carefully to the discussion on CBTMT and the call for greater certainty that support will be available to those that need it. We continue to support GEF becoming the core funding mechanism for BBNJ capacity building, not least because it could provide support for implementation before the first CoP meets. We remain committed to continuing to discuss these critical issues with colleagues across delegations during the next intersessional period.
- Over the past two days, our discussions on EIAs have been detailed and complex, perhaps again supporting the argument that a more concise, clearer text is needed.
- On all of these issues, Madam President, and on those parts of the text that we have only touched on lightly or not at all, including as raised by the EU&MS, the issue of the application of the MGR Part to state owned vessels, the United Kingdom is ready and willing to continue working collaboratively across delegations and regions to ensure that IGC5 can start the best possible place and conclude with an Agreement. As a member of the BBNJ High Ambition Coalition we want to see an ambitious agreement that can make a real difference to ocean health and governance. We believe we are on track to delivering this ambition.