**Submission of proposals related to the Further revised draft text of an agreement 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**

**Template**

*Please fill out one form for each article which your delegation(s) or group(s) wish(es) to propose, amend or delete.*

1. **Name(s) of Delegation(s) and/or Group(s) making the proposal in the order that they should be listed in any conference room papers or other documents:**

Michelle Bender, Earth Law Center

1. **Please indicate the relevant part of the Further revised draft text (as reflected in A/CONF.232/2022/5) that this proposal relates to, using the drop-down menu below.**

Preamble

1. **Please indicate the relevant article of the Further revised draft text (as reflected in A/CONF.232/2022/5) that this proposal relates to (if applicable) or indicate if this is a proposal for an additional article**

Paragraph 2

1. **Kindly provide the amendments to the article that are being proposed in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the article that are being amended or deleted - examples are attached for reference.**

Stressing the need to respect the balance of rights, obligations and interests set out in the Convention, as well as the rights and interests of future generations and marine life to a healthy, productive and resilient ocean;

1. **Rationale for the proposal, if any.**

We support IUCN’s recommendation for the preamble, as inclusion of this text would provide for and ensure, amongst others:
● a comprehensive framework to guide the implementation of State’s obligation to protect and conserve the marine environment under UNCLOS;
● effective and long-term “conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity” of ABNJ;
● reducing fragmentation by aligning with other international and national frameworks utilizing a rights-based approach, including the Convention on Biological Diversity post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
● protecting and conserving biodiversity in any case of doubt, giving preference to less harmful alternatives (in other words, when in doubt err on the side of the Ocean);
● the inclusion and respect for traditional and Indigenous knowledge.

The BBNJ must recognize the Ocean as our source of life, our relationship with the ecosystems we are a part of, and our responsibilities and obligations to protect ABNJ.