



**Statement of Hiroko Muraki Gottlieb  
Representative for the Ocean, International Council of Environmental Law**

**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  
(UNGA Res. 72/249)**

***Item 5: General Exchange of Views***

**New York, Monday, 25 March 2019**

*Check against delivery*

**Madame President,**

International Council of Environmental Law continues to place our full confidence in your able leadership. As other distinguished delegates have stated before me, we believe that the President's Aid to Negotiations and the focus on the "how"—the operational aspects—of the treaty will move the discussions forward towards a draft text. We thank you, the Secretariat, the Bureau members and the facilitators for all of your hard work to prepare us for the next two weeks and beyond.

**Madame President,**

We believe that the rule of law is an enabling tool that can be used to achieve ambitious goals. It has been the role of environmental law to help humans learn to fashion our laws to respect the laws of nature. Through the rule of law, we can find ways to thrive in our interconnected planet that is inclusive, where no one is left behind.

**Madame President,**

We have participated in a number of informal intersessional meetings to carefully listen to various thoughts and ideas of the regional groups, Member States as well as of other stakeholders. We have found that robust stakeholder engagements lead to effective solutions on dauntingly complex issues where innovative ideas are needed.

**Madame President,**

We are prepared to work with you and your team, the regional groups, Member States, IGOs and civil society to help find ways to effectively and creatively use the rule of law and innovative approaches to protect the largest ecosystem of our Earth for the current and future generations.

Thank you.

**Hiroko Muraki Gottlieb**  
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