**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY COSTA RICA**

Madame President

Costa Rica adheres itself to the statement delivered by the G77 and China, and to the message delivered by Mexico on behalf of CLAM.

Costa Rica wishes to thank you, Madame President, for guiding us through these long and fruitful 2 weeks, which resulted in unprecedented advance in our path towards securing a strong, robust, effective treaty fit for now and for the future.

We extend our thanks to the facilitators, the Secretariat, and the Office of the Legal Council.

Since the beginning of these negotiations, over a decade ago, Costa Rica has committed to contributing towards the common goal of reaching an implementing agreement that can address the legal and implementation gaps identified at the beginning of the process. Consequently, we have promoted the crucial creation of a network of interconnected and ecologically connected marine areas, fair and equitable access to marine genetic resources, the adoption of robust and effective procedures for conducting environmental impact assessments to safeguard marine ecosystems, and capacity-building and transfer of marine technology so that all State Parties can achieve the operationalization of these pillars.

We want to thank all delegations, with which we have spent long hours exchanging views, understanding our sometimes-different positions, and bridging differences, always in good faith.

We have worked until the last minute constructively, with the aim of advancing as much as possible.

We are getting close to the finish line, and we believe that if we come back to the resumed session, guided by our joint responsibility to the global ocean, with the sense of urgency that the multiple environmental challenges demand, we will very soon be able to conclude the ambitious treaty our future generations demand and deserve.

Thank you, Madam President.