

**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**

Fourth Session

New York from 7-18th March 2022

Statement delivered by H E Mr. Mohan Pieirs Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations on 18th March under Agenda item 5

Madam President,

Sri Lanka joins the G 77 & China and the rest of the delegations in thanking you Madam President, the Under Secretary General (Legal), Director DOALAS and his staff and the Facilitators, for the excellent manner in which the work of IGC-4 was conducted making it a very productive, result oriented session.

We have listened and listened with interest to the statements of all distinguished delegations during the sessions and we will reflect upon them in our inter sessional work aligning with G77 & China. Be assured that we will continue this discussion on our way home and when back at home, to come back re-energized for IGC-V in the hope there will be finality.

As observed by many delegations, we were able to achieve consensus and convergence around many areas of divergence/uncertainty, (particularly on the bracketed text) in a spirit of mutual cooperation which gives us cause for optimism that these discussions signal a round of discussions on an International Legally binding Instrument on the BBNJ which meaningfully opens a new window to a hitherto under exploited, unaffordable resource for many jurisdictions which have little or no benefit although the resource it is said ,ostensibly, is a global common ,for the common good of humanity. We need to underscore the principle that the equitable sharing of the resources on the basis of an intelligible rationale for any differentia is a sine qua non.

It is common ground that this initiative which is for the common good of humanity must be given our urgent attention our highest consideration. Sri Lanka unreservedly agrees with that view, that these discussions on the legally binding instrument is brought to a finality at the earliest so as to ensure the provisions of the instrument are ready for implementation by all State parties.

Madam President, we wish you and all delegations a safe journey back home.