CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Second Session
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 of the Intergovernmental Conference (BBNJ)

Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York, 04 April 2019

Thank you, Madame President.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by Palestine on behalf of G77 and China.

As we had previously indicated, it is necessary that we agree first on the substance of the instrument before we can finalize definitions and decide on what terms should be included.

We wish to reiterate our position that the definition of terms must be consistent with existing international instruments and based on emerging and best available science in the context of BBNJ, such as MPA networks, connectivity and adjacency, and considering the different level of science and technology at the time of drafting of the UNCLOS.

While we will not, at this time, propose text definitions, we would like to raise some points in our future formulation:

a) Definitions already provided in international instruments, like UNCLOS, IOC Criteria and Guidelines, CBD, and the Nagoya Protocol, must be adopted including those pertaining to "marine protected area," "marine technology," and "marine genetic resource"

b) Definitions already provided in international instruments must be updated as well, including "marine genetic material" "biotechnology" and "derivatives."

c) Clarification on terms included in the instrument must be provided, including for "origin" (whether biological origin or based on location) and "source" (whether biological source or based on location).

d) And, finally, definitions must be provided for particular terms essential to the effective operationalization and implementation of the instrument, including "bioprospecting", "in situ" and "in silico."

Thank you, Madame President.