



## **OPENING STATEMENT**

### **Third 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, 20 August 2019

Thank you, Madame President.

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

We wish to express our appreciation for your hard work in releasing at the earliest time the draft text of the agreement. You have our commitment to fully and interactively engage in the discussions, and to positively consider and quickly respond to proposals submitted in the course of our meetings.

We would like to affirm that the principle of the common heritage of mankind underpins the draft instrument and all our discussions, and as such we will be guided by this in our approach and engagement on our discussions.

Thank you, Madame President.