

Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Korea

August 19, 2019

The delegation of the Republic of Korea would like to thank Ambassador Rena Lee and her colleagues as well as the Division for Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN for their hard work and excellent insight in putting together the draft text based on the discussion of the past IGCs. We believe the draft text will be able to serve as an effective basis for the third IGC and any future discussion.

Despite the continued efforts of all participating States and other stakeholders, gaps remain wide. If we are to deliver the legally binding instrument that can be widely accepted and substantially contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ, we need to work together to come up with what is feasible and practical, not undermining the existing regime of the law of the sea, as already agreed upon.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea will actively engage at the current IGC with other States and stakeholders to build upon the draft text to expand the common ground for discussion on the main issues of BBNJ.