



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

By

His Excellency Supark Prongthura

**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations**

at the First Session

**of the 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**

at United Nations Headquarters

New York, 4 September 2018

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Madam President,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. As a new chapter of history begins today, allow me first, to express how pleased my delegation is to see you presiding over this Conference. We appreciate your efforts and would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Madam President, for preparing the aid to discussions paper, which will serve as a good basis for further deliberations. We believe that this paper, together with inputs and comments from the substantive discussions at this very first IGC session, will pave the way towards the constructive preparation of a zero draft of the instrument. In this regard, please be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.
3. As we are at the preliminary stage of the preparation of a zero draft, my delegation is of the view that the structure of a draft could follow the order of the elements contained in the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee. This is also reflected in the President's aid to discussions paper.
4. On substantive matters, we would like to highlight at this stage a few issues that are important to my delegation: First, regarding access and benefit sharing of marine genetic resources, both in the high seas and in the Area, my delegation wishes to reiterate the view we made during the PrepCom process and also made by others today. That is, this issue should be governed by the principle of the common heritage of mankind.
5. Second, my delegation would like to share our view on the question as to whether the new instrument should take into account the distinction between fish used for genetic properties and fish used as a commodity. We should approach this question with careful consideration. Having recognised that making such a distinction would be difficult, if not impossible, in practice, my delegation wishes to offer an alternative view. That is, regardless of the purpose of the use of fish, whether as genetic properties or as

commodity, all fish in the high seas should be governed by the principle of the common heritage of mankind. We believe that, by adhering to this principle, the new instrument will be able to harmonise conservation and management measures and set a global standard for those measures among the RFMOs.

6. Third and last, with respect to benefit sharing of marine genetic resources, including the issue of global multiple benefit sharing, we are of the view that the Conference should take into account practices as reflected in relevant international instruments. These include the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilisation to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the FAO's International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
7. In closing and looking ahead, Madam President, it is my delegation's sincere hope that the discussions and outcome of the Conference will reflect a balance of interests of the different groups and countries, with the ultimate goal of successfully concluding a historic legal instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Thank you.
