



*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

**MRS. JULIETTE BABB-RILEY
DEPUTY HEAD OF THE BARBADOS DELEGATION
PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE

**INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY
BINDING INSTRUMENT UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE
LAW OF THE SEAS ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF
MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL
JURISDICTION**

March 18, 2022

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

Please check against delivery

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CARICOM aligns itself with the statements delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China and Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States and wishes to highlight a number of issues as we bring IGC4 to a close:

First, at the outset, CARICOM joins others in expressing its deep appreciation to the President of the Conference, the Bureau, the Facilitators, the Secretariat, other Member States and Civil Society Organisations for the positive, constructive and collaborative way in which this meeting has been conducted.

After a two-year hiatus, during which our peoples and communities have had to deal with the ravages and collective trauma of a global pandemic, we have assembled here in person to address another issue of global import and global concern – the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

We remain persuaded that the areas beyond national jurisdiction are part of the global commons and as such the principles of the common heritage of mankind must inform our approach and management of areas beyond national jurisdiction. It is this vision that has informed our engagement and proposals for the

elaboration of a new international legally binding BBNJ Agreement.

Second, we believe that it is imperative that we conclude these negotiations in 2022 and wish therefore to thank the President and Bureau for their proposal to convene the fifth and final IGC in August of this year. We also support the intention of the President to table a decision in this regard and strongly urge the President and the Secretary-General to ensure that the requisite resources, including multiple meeting rooms with full conference services are provided for the conduct of IGC5. We also call upon the Secretariat to ensure that the budget for the fifth session foresees provision for delegations to work over the weekend, if required, in order to complete our work.

Third, we join others in requesting the President to prepare a revised clean draft text, as soon as possible for our early consideration and we thank her for her intention to make the text available in early May. This timeline will give us the time needed to coordinate among our member states and across regions with others.

Fourth, CARICOM supports the two-week timeline provided for delegations to present further textual proposals. In this regard, we will further examine the textual proposals submitted by the EU, the UK and others on Part II of the Agreement and will work with the African Group and CLAM to present a joint proposal on

this part of the Agreement. We will also continue our discussions with the EU, UK, Monaco, CLAM, the PSIDS and others to streamline the text in Part III, in particular as it relates to Articles 15 and 19.

With regard to Part IV, we will continue to collaborate with other groups and countries on the CARICOM-PSIDS proposal that was presented during IGC4. We trust that we can count on the support of other delegations for our proposal which we see as a constructive attempt to bridge the positions of a cross-section of delegations. We therefore stand ready to provide further clarity on our proposal.

In respect of Part V, we welcome the general support around this part of the package and implore all to be truly ambitious in how we treat to capacity building and the transfer of marine technology especially as it relates to the particular needs of SIDS. This will require a robust and implementable CBTMT mechanism.

And on Institutional Arrangements, CARICOM looks forward to discussions with other groups on a structural mechanism to deal with Financing as well as Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Marine Technology.

Fifth, CARICOM would like to express its appreciation to those countries that have contributed to the Voluntary Trust Fund and

urge their continued contribution to the Fund. While many of our capital based experts were unable to join us in NY for IGC 4 due to the modalities for Conference, we recognise that the modalities needed for IGC5, including the convening of parallel meetings, will require our experts to be in NY.

Sixth, we support the deployment of the Facilitators during the inter-sessional period to engage delegations and foster increased consensus building among delegations and across regions on the more difficult issues, including those which we were unable to consider during IGC 4.

Seventh, CARICOM is committed to concluding a multilateral agreement that reflects high ambition. For us, this means four things:

- I. Global Governance and oversight for management of BBNJ;
- II. An Equitable Access and Benefit Sharing Regime;
- III. Adequate Financial Resources and a robust CBTMT for Implementation, and
- IV. Well-defined coherent mechanisms to ensure our shared commitment to marine biological conservation.

Madam President, CARICOM accordingly commits to undertake the necessary intersessional work to bring our negotiations to a successful close this year and looks forward to working with all delegations to this end.

I thank you.