

**Interactive Dialogue 7, UNOC Lisbon 2022**  
**Thursday 30 June – 15:00-18:00**

**Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

**Statement from IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)**

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Thank you, Mister Moderator,

Noting that the current ocean governance framework is fragmented, IUCN - the International Union for Conservation of Nature - would like to highlight the crucial need for cross-sectoral cooperation based on shared values and objectives based on achieving a healthy, productive and resilient ocean. IUCN would like to encourage coordination and mechanisms to resolve conflicting priorities between the different implementing agreements under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and all other legally-binding instruments. The global ocean knows no boundaries, it is connected across depths, regions, and UNCLOS ocean zones. Our implementation of the international law of the sea, as reflected in UNCLOS and other international instruments, customary international law, as well as all relevant international principles and emerging norms, therefore must be integrated and coherent.

Considering the urgent need to rebuild global ocean health, productivity and resilience and safeguard marine life in areas beyond national jurisdiction, IUCN urges Member States to conclude, in 2022, the negotiation of a new and ambitious international legally binding instrument, under UNCLOS, on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in ABNJ, ensuring that it provides for:

- Expedient identification, establishment and management of an ecologically representative, well-connected, well-managed network of effective MPAs, including a substantial portion of which are highly and fully protected, and other ABMT in ABNJ through a transparent, science-based process;
- Rigorous, independent, science-based environmental impact assessment of activities that may have adverse effects on ABNJ;
- Assessment, management and monitoring of the individual and cumulative effects of human activities and climate change on marine biological diversity in ABNJ;

- Acquisition of scientific data necessary to the achievement of its objectives in line with the FAIR Principles for findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable scientific data;
- Strategic environmental assessment;
- Ensuring that, if environmental impact assessments indicate that an activity poses significant adverse effects in ABNJ, such activity is managed to prevent such impacts or not permitted to proceed;
- Effective monitoring, compliance and enforcement, and best environmental standards, including transparency best practices;
- Effective capacity building and transfer of marine technology;
- Fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources from ABNJ;
- Effective collaboration with existing bodies, including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and Regional Seas Programmes for coordinated action on the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in ABN; and
- Incorporation of the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle, among others, to advance stewardship in ABNJ.

To ensure coherence in approaches and outcomes in conserving and sustainably managing marine biodiversity in ABNJ, IUCN also calls upon States to support and implement a moratorium on deep seabed mining, issuing of new exploitation and exploration contracts and the adoption of seabed mining regulations for exploitation by the International Seabed Authority (ISA), unless and until the conditions set forth in IUCN Resolution WCC-2020-Res-122 have been satisfied. This includes the ability to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of mining. These goals will also be advanced by reform of the ISA to ensure transparent, accountable, inclusive, effective and environmentally responsible decision making and regulation.

IUCN calls on States to translate high-level commitments into legally binding treaty text that will deliver a healthy, resilient ocean. Further, IUCN encourages governments to accept, ratify, implement, and enforce instruments that implement international law that can enhance ocean and marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

IUCN and its Commissions stand ready to support the Member States as needed to enhance conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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