

IUCN's Intervention on Environmental Impact Assessments
UNGA Res. 69/292 Fourth PrepCom
14 July 2017

Mr. Chair,

IUCN would like to express our deep appreciation to you, your team and the Secretariat for the excellent leadership and hard work. We would also like to thank all the delegations for your unwavering support and your tireless work towards reaching a consensus to protect the largest ecosystem of the Earth.

As the world's largest environmental organization, we have worked with leading scientists to provide you information about how the ocean works but moreover, how the ocean has radically changed during our lifetime from multiple stressors, including the accelerating impacts from climate change.

These findings have been confirmed as the First World Ocean Assessment eloquently expressed regarding BBNJ,

“The greatest threat to the ocean comes from a failure to deal quickly with the manifold problems that have been described If the problems are not addressed, there is a major risk that they will combine to produce a destructive cycle of degradation in which the ocean can no longer provide many of the benefits that humans currently enjoy from it.”¹

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

We are now in your hands. The fate of the ocean and its ability to provide for both current and future generations are in your hands.

We are encouraged by an overwhelming support to complete the mandate of Res. 69/292 and confident that you will find a way to successfully and timely move forward to an IGC to commence in 2018. To that end, IUCN is here to continue to support all of you in the coming days, weeks and months.

Thank you, Chair

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[http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/8th_adhoc_2017/Technical Abstract on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/8th_adhoc_2017/Technical_Abstract_on_the_Conservation_and_Sustainable_Use_of_marine_Biological_Diversity_of_Areas_Beyond_National_Jurisdiction.pdf)