

*Statement of International Union for Conservation of Nature at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Conference convened by General Assembly resolution 72/249. 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*

*Agenda Item 6: Marine Genetic Resources*

*26 March 2019*

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Thank you very much, Madam Facilitator, for giving me the floor,

The discussion around a multilateral benefit sharing mechanism raised the issue of compatibility with the Nagoya Protocol. This is a key point. Many genetic resources are found both within and beyond national jurisdiction. Harmonizing these regimes could prevent the possibility of 'jurisdiction shopping' in which a regime is selected that has the lowest requirements.

From a scientific perspective, the open sharing of MGR and associated data will aid ocean conservation by improving our knowledge of marine biodiversity. Sharing can happen at multiple stages of the biodiscovery process. As mentioned by others, advanced knowledge of research cruises could lead to capacity building and sharing of genetic material by incorporating researchers from developing countries in a more inclusive way. Integrating developing country researchers at all stages of the process will lead to positive research outcomes and impacts.

For effective sharing of samples, it will be essential to make available information about what resources are collected and where they are deposited and how they can be accessed. Information related to origin should be attached to the sample and maintained as it is shared. Stipulating this information on the sample does not necessarily interfere with IP rights or rights in respect of the information.

It will be important to find ways to link benefit sharing with conservation. Both Dnd t