

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**STATEMENT AT 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**

by Mr. António Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations

[delivered by Miguel de Serpa Soares, United Nations Legal Counsel]

New York, 1st March 2023

It can help guarantee that marine genetic resources are accessed and utilized for the benefit of all humanity.

It can provide an adequate framework for the use of marine protected areas to conserve and sustainably manage vital habitats and species.

It can make sure that the environmental impacts of activities are assessed and fully considered in decision-making.

And it can fulfil the promise of capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, levelling the playing field so all States can responsibly utilize and benefit from this critical global commons.

At the dawn of the fifth decade since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, you have the opportunity to further build on its legacy.

You can show that the Convention can adapt to meet evolving challenges and demonstrate