



BBNJ IGC5

26 August 2022

IUCN (speaker: Minna Epps)

Closing Statement

(time limit: 2 minutes)

Thank you, Madam President,

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature expresses its sincere appreciation for the tremendous efforts expended at this fifth Intergovernmental Conference despite not reaching the desired result.

We particularly wish to thank the President, Facilitators, Secretariat (DOALOS), leaders of working groups, delegates, and observers on the conclusion of two intense weeks of negotiations, in a demonstration of a good spirit of cooperation in the face of urgency.

We welcome the progress made towards:

- *An empowered and inclusive COP and its components that will allow States to act together for healthy ocean life, working with a dedicated Secretariat and Scientific and Technical Body*
 - *Embracing the diversity of forms of knowledge, including indigenous and local knowledge, and its complementarity with best-available science, and scientific understanding of the ocean which will guide the implementation of the Agreement*

- *Recognizing the need for Institutional mechanisms for capacity building and implementation*

However, we note with concern the impasses that remain, including the need to develop standards and guidelines for environmental impact assessments, the scope and sharing of benefits from MGR; and appropriate institutional mechanisms, including a robust, accessible and equitable financial mechanism for implementation and associated needs-based capacity building,

It is now imperative to use this final interim period to prioritise and tackle the most polarizing issues.

If we are to be the stewards of areas beyond jurisdiction on behalf of present and future generations, let us rise up to the occasion and live up to the spirit of multilateralism that led to the signing of UNCLOS 40 years ago by committing to finalizing the Agreement by the end of this year.

In closing, IUCN offers its continued support during the interim period to bring in legal expertise and best practices in conservation, traditional knowledge and scientific research, which will be needed to underpin a strong, effective and equitable BBNJ Treaty for the benefit of human- and oceankind.

Thank you. Madame President!