UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Third Session of 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

Monday 19 August 2019 at 10:00 am CR.4

Opening Remarks address by Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, Secretary-General of the Conference

Distinguished President of the Conference,

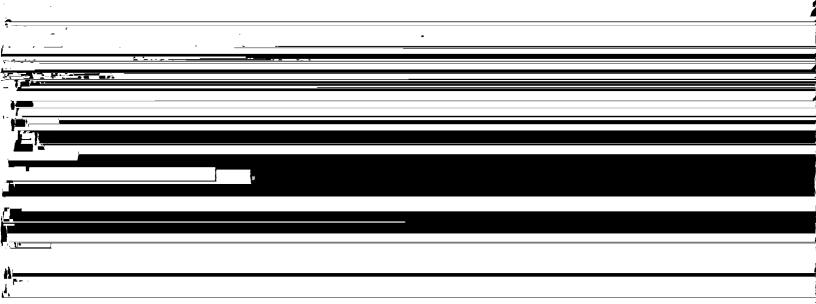
Excellencies,

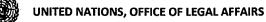
Distinguished delegates,



_	The	first	two	sessions	of the	<u>e Conference</u>	laid	а	strona		
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to embark on. Under the skilful guidance of Madam President, Ms. Rena Lee, including through her aid to discussions and aid to negotiations, combined with the hard work of delegations, those sessions advanced discussions on the various issues of the package agreed in 2011. leading to the identification of some





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	Since the last session, the 2019 Global Assessment Report							
	on	Biodiversity	and	Ecosystem	Services	of	the	
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Ecosystem Services (IPBES), was approved by the IPBES Plenary at its 7th session in May 2019 in Paris. The report, which was prepared by 150 leading experts from 50 countries, with additional contributions from a further 250 experts, has found that, across most of the globe, nature has been significantly altered by multiple human drivers, with the great majority of indicators of ecosystems and biodiversity showing rapid decline. According to the report, and I quote:

"Except in scenarios that include transformative change, negative trends in nature, in ecosystem functions and in many of nature's contributions to people are projected to





is experiencing increasing cumulative human impacts, primarily from climate change stressors, including sea surface temperature anomalies, ocean acidification, and ultraviolet widespread radiation. There is evidence that these anthropogenic impacts are having major effects on the health of

sustaining and conserving marine species and ecosystems *can* be achieved through a coordinated mix of interventions, including multilevel coordination across stakeholders. Thus, this Conference can, and it is my hope that it will, play an important



Distinguished delegates,

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	confident that our common interact in providing future	
	confident that our common interest in providing future	
	<u>generations with a healthy, resilient and productive ocean, will</u>	
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	continue to guide delegations in their negotiations. I am also	
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