



General Assembly

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Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 76 (a)

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Singapore: draft decision

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [72/249](#) of 24 December 2017, in which it decided to convene an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee¹ on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea² on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible, and also decided that, initially with respect to 2018, 2019 and the first half of 2020, the conference shall meet for four sessions of a duration of 10 working days each,

Recalling also its decision 74/543 of 11 March 2020, by which it decided to postpone the fourth session of the conference to the earliest possible available date to be decided by the General Assembly,

Recalling further its resolution [75/239](#) of 31 December 2020, in which it requested the Secretary-General to convene the fourth session of the intergovernmental conference from 16 to 27 August 2021,

Noting with concern the continued situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19):

(a) Decides to postpone the fourth session of the conference to the earliest possible available date in 2022, preferably during the first half of the year;

¹ Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution [69/292](#): Development of 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.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.



(b) Requests the Secretary-General to convene the fourth session of the conference, with full conference services, including documentation, as required, for a duration of 10 days, on the dates to be determined by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the intergovernmental conference;

(c) Also requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary support and services for online discussions to be convened by the President of the intergovernmental conference in 2021.
