



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 74 (a)

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

#### Draft decision submitted by the President of the General Assembly

#### **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 Committee<sup>1</sup> on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea<sup>2</sup> 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 resolution [74/19](#) of 10 December 2019, in which it decided to convene, from 23 March to 3 April 2020, the fourth session of the intergovernmental conference,

Noting with concern the situation concerning the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19),

Decides to postpone the fourth session of the conference to the earliest possible available date to be decided by the General Assembly.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 11 March 2020.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

