

**TEMPLATE FOR PEER REVIEW COMMENTS
TECHNICAL SERIES ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY**

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Comments on the Technical Series on Synthetic Biology		
Page #	Line #	Comment
6	1	Change “Biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction” to “Biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction ”
70	36-39	The description of the measures under the London Protocol to the London Convention does not describe accurately the measures adopted thereunder and reflected in Resolutions LC-LP.1 (2008), Resolution LC-LP.2(2010) and Resolution LP.4(8) of 2013.
95	15	Change “proposed agreement for marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction” to “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 under development”
114	27-28	Change to “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 under development”
114	31	Change “157 Parties” to “168 Parties”
114	32-35	The description in this paragraph is inaccurate. Resolution 69/292 of the United Nations General Assembly “stress[ed] the need for the comprehensive global regime to better address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction”. This indicates that, in the view of the General Assembly, there is already a comprehensive global regime in place but this regime must better address those issues.
114	36-37	Change “the need to close the existing ABNJ governance gap and ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in these areas.” to “... a number of issues, including possible options and approaches to promote international cooperation and coordination for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. In 2011, the General Assembly agreed to address a package of issues, namely the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology”.

		<i>Rationale:</i> This would more accurately reflect the original mandate of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction as reflected in resolution 59/24 of the General Assembly and the subsequent evolution of the focus of discussions and the package of issues as mandated by resolution 66/231.
114	39	Change “to consider” to “to elaborate”. <i>Rationale:</i> This is more in line with the mandate of the Conference as reflected in GA resolution 72/249.
114	40	After “ABNJ”, add “with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible.” <i>Rationale:</i> This is more in line with the mandate of the Conference as reflected in GA resolution 72/249.
114-115	41 (p114) -13 (p115)	The paragraph contains several inaccuracies concerning the process and issues under discussion by the Conference. It is suggested that it be replaced in its entirety by the following: “ Marine genetic resources, including the sharing of benefits, have been central to the discussions of the Conference, which is addressing the topics identified in the package agreed in 2011, namely the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. The first session of the Conference was convened in 2018 and the second and third sessions in 2019. At the third session, delegations begun text-based negotiations on the basis of a draft text of an agreement developed by the President of the Conference (A/CONF.232/2019/6). The fourth session of the Conference, which was scheduled to be held in August 2021 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/239, was further postponed by the General Assembly to the earliest possible available date in 2022, preferably during the first half of the year. It will consider a revised draft text of an agreement (A/CONF.232/2020/3). Part II of the Revised draft text is entirely dedicated to marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, and contains provisions on, inter alia, access to marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction, access to traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities associated with marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction, sharing of benefits, including modalities for such sharing, and monitoring.”
129	2-3	Change “an agreement for marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions” to “an international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction”

Please submit your comments to secretariat@cbd.int.