



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

Delivered by

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to the United Nations**

**at the High-Level Commemorative Meeting
of the General Assembly
to Mark the 40th Anniversary of the Adoption of
the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

UNHQ, New York, 29 April 2022

Mr. President,

1. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to you for convening this important meeting commemorating the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). I also thank the keynote speakers for their valuable insights on a key pillar in the body of international law and in the rules-based international order that underpins stable and peaceful inter-State relations.

2. The significance of UNCLOS to our oceans and seas, as well as to our way of life is both indisputable and immense. It is difficult to imagine the modern world without the order that UNCLOS helps provide.

3. The Convention not only seeks to **balance the interests of states** -- whether coastal, landlocked, archipelagic or geographically disadvantaged -- but also puts in place **protection for all states** of their rights and freedoms, as well as their obligations and responsibilities: from sovereignty over the territorial sea, to freedom of the high seas including freedom of navigation and overflight, from access to resources in maritime areas to the sustainable use of the oceans and its resources while respecting the environment.

4. As we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the adoption of UNCLOS, Thailand wishes to highlight the following points:

5. First, the safety, security and sustainability of as well as access to oceans and seas are of critical importance to Thailand. The world's major bodies of water and sea lanes are a lifeline upon which we depend for connectivity, commerce, resources and livelihood.

6. Thailand therefore takes pride in being an active member of the negotiation process that developed, codified and finally led to the successful adoption of this legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. As a State Party, we remain fully **committed to fulfilling our obligations** and support effective implementation of this vital legal instrument. We thus also expect the Convention to be respected and effectively implemented.

7. Second, as we work to advance sustainability and sustainable development, it is in our interest to turn to the Convention for guidance. UNCLOS contains legal provisions on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, which serve as an important reference as we chart our course towards **sustainable development** as well as the attainment of **SDG 14** (Sustainable Development Goal 14).

8. Third, it is critically important that we put **long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of marine resources** high on our agenda. On our part, Thailand supports the resumption of the **intergovernmental conference (IGC) to elaborate the text of the BBNJ instrument which was reconvened last month.**

9. **We look forward to the next session of the IGC**, and we hope that this legal instrument, once concluded and enters into force, will lead to better conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. In doing so, it is in our view that the important principle of the **common heritage of mankind**, as enshrined in UNCLOS and previously underscored by Prince Wan Waithayakorn, the President of the First UN Conference on the Law of the Sea way back in 1958, should be a guiding principle for this new instrument.

10. Looking ahead, Thailand is certain of the Convention's continued contribution to further economic and social advancement of all peoples. In light of this, we wish to reiterate our call to encourage others that have not done so to become parties to the Convention.

11. Thank you.
