

Submission of proposals related to the Further revised draft text of an agreement 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

Template

Please fill out one form for each article which your delegation(s) or group(s) wish(es) to propose, amend or delete.

- 1. Name(s) of Delegation(s) and/or Group(s) making the proposal in the order that they should be listed in any conference room papers or other documents:**

International Union for Conservation of Nature

- 2. Please indicate the relevant part of the Further revised draft text (as reflected in A/CONF.232/2022/5¹) that this proposal relates to, using the drop-down menu below.**

PART I GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 3. Please indicate the relevant article of the Further revised draft text (as reflected in A/CONF.232/2022/5¹) that this proposal relates to (if applicable) or indicate if this is a proposal for an additional article**

Article 1, para. 16

- 4. Kindly provide the amendments to the article that are being proposed in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the article that are being amended or deleted - examples are attached for reference.**

16. ~~Option A:~~ “Strategic environmental assessment” means ~~a higher-level assessment process~~analytical and participatory approaches to strategic decision-making that can be used in three main ways: aim to integrate environmental considerations into policies, plans and programmes, and evaluate the inter linkages with economic and social considerations.

¹ Currently available as an advance, unedited, version on the website of the IGC: [Fifth substantive session \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/development/desa/ia/ia-igc/)

Alternatively:

16. Option A: “Strategic environmental assessment” means a higher-level assessment process that can be used, ~~in three main ways for example,~~ (1) to prepare a strategic development or resource use plan for a defined land and/or ocean area; (2) to examine the potential environmental impacts that may arise from, or impact upon, the implementation of government policies, plans and programmes; ~~and~~ (3) to assess different classes or types of development projects, so as to produce general environmental management policies or design guidelines for the development classes/types; ~~and~~ and (4) to provide a strategic, cross-sectoral, and ecosystem-based review of the status, pressures and trends regarding marine biodiversity of ABNJ to identify priorities for conservation and management action including in response to climate change in an open, inclusive and participatory manner.

5. Rationale for the proposal, if any.

IUCN’s suggested definition is used by the World Bank and OECD. “Originally, SEA was designed as an extension of environmental impact assessment (EIA) of projects to plans, programs, and policies. Over time SEA has become more strategic by bringing different groups of stakeholders into an environmental and social dialogue in an iterative and adaptive way.” World Bank 2012. See article 41 ter. Option B does not reflect how SEA is currently understood.

Alternatively, Option A could include another example as in (4) above. Collaborative regionally-focused SEA partnerships could serve to advance science capacity to explore, study and assess pressures on BBNJ, underpin design of coherent and connected MPA networks and ABMT systems, inform future research priorities as well as subsequent EIAs and SEAs in these areas, using modern molecular/genomic tools (e.g., environmental DNA) and other technologies. They could also be designed to consider, upon request, connected areas within national jurisdiction.