



President of the 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

8 February 2022

Excellencies,

I have the honour to refer to Note Verbale BBNJ_IGC/FourthSession/MS/Rev.1 of the Secretariat, dated 9 December 2021, convening the fourth session of the 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 from 7-18 March 2022.

Following consultations with the Bureau of the Conference and the Secretariat on the feasibility of holding that session on those dates in the light of the developments concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and their impact on holding in-person meetings at United Nations Headquarters, I am pleased to inform delegations that the fourth session of the Conference will be held in person at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, on the scheduled dates of 7-18 March 2022.

However, in light of possible business continuity measures at United Nations Headquarters and actions by the Secretariat that may be taken to mitigate the risk posed by the COVID-19 pandemic for the safety and health of delegates and personnel on the United Nations premises in New York, there are likely to be restrictions on the conduct of the conference, including the number of persons with access to the conference room at any one time.

Permanent Representatives of
Member States to the United Nations
Members of the specialized agencies
Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Further information concerning health requirements and other logistical details will be provided in an Information Note for Participants under preparation by the Secretariat, and will be made available on the Conference webpage as soon as finalized.

A revised programme of work for the session, taking into account the limited room capacity, will also be prepared and made available on the website of the Conference shortly.

I intend to convene virtual briefings for Member States and observers on the modalities for the fourth session in the coming days. Further information will be communicated shortly by the Secretariat.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rena Lee', with a small flourish at the end.

Rena Lee
Ambassador for Oceans and Law of the Sea Issues
Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs
President of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference