





Over the past three decades, the Convention has truly risen to its distinction as the constitution for the oceans. It has made important contributions to the maintenance of peace, security and to prosperity for all peoples of the world.

The legal framework that the Convention sets out for all activities on the oceans and seas is almost universally accepted, with 169 Parties, including the European Union. States largely recognize that many provisions of the Convention reflect rules of customary international law.

In addition to its contributions to law and order at sea, the Convention as a framework instrument plays an important role in the development of the law of the sea. Let me highlight in this regard the recent adoption and opening for signature of the Agree





as a timely reminder of the vital role of the Convention as a robust framework instrument of enduring contemporary relevance.







Ocean Conference in 2022, provided important roadmaps for ambitious and concerted action to achieve Goal 14 as soon as possible.

We must build on this momentum as we look ahead to the third Ocean Conference in Nice, France, in 2025, to accelerate action and mobilize all actors towards the conservation and sustainable use of our ocean.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

In closing, I offer a final reflection that in its many important contributions to the codification and development of the law of the sea, the Convention has stood the test of time as a testament to multilateralism. Let us celebrate the Convention as evidence of our collective resolve to work towards our shared goal of ensuring the peaceful and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, for present and future generations.

Thank you.

