

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister of Wales

18 January 2024

Dear Mark,

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 (“BBNJ treaty”)

As you are aware, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of non-trade international agreements in the Sixth Senedd.

During our meeting on 4 December 2023, we considered the 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 (“BBNJ treaty”). The BBNJ Treaty provides for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and international cooperation.

As you are aware, although foreign affairs and international relations are reserved matters, observing and implementing international agreements in devolved areas is not reserved. As noted in our report, the Treaty also relates to fisheries, marine, and environmental policy, which are matters devolved to Wales.

The Explanatory Memorandum details the intergovernmental engagement which took place in relation to the agreement, including updating and consulting the devolved governments on the agreement’s development.

We would be grateful if you could please provide:

- your view of the process of updating and consulting the devolved governments on the agreement’s development;



- an update on legislation required to implement the agreement; and
- information on any intergovernmental work taking place, or due to take place, to implement the agreement, as well as confirmation of which existing intergovernmental structures are being utilised.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

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Chair

