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| **GERMANY: Statement SBSTTA-24 (informal)**  **Agenda Item: 6, Marine and coastal biodiversity** |
| 24.02.2021 |

**Statement**

* Germany would like to thank the CBD Secretariat for preparing the draft recommendation for marine and coastal biodiversity.
* With respect to EBSAs, Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas, Germany supports the suggested modalities for modifiying descriptions of existing EBSAs and for describing new areas, as outlined in the Annexes of the Recommendation. In some Annexes, minor amendments could be made to clarify the described modalities. Germany will provide comments in writing.
* Germany would like to encourage all Parties to take into consideration the scientific aspects of the EBSA process within the negotiations under way in 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.
* In this respect, Germany would like to encourage all Parties using the scientific information on ecological and biological features related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.
* From a general point of view, Germany would like to ask the Open Ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to stronger take into account the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity when developing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to enhance the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable use of marine ecosystems.
* In this regard, Germany would like to encourage all Parties, Organizations and Stakeholders to contribute to strengthening the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.
* To stress the importance of the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity also in the Suggested Recommendation, Germany would like to suggest splitting the present draft recommendations into two separate recommendations – one on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, currently part A of the draft recommendation, and a second recommendation on “Conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity”, currently part B, “other matters”.