

**Resolution Authorising the Ratification of 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 Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is a party to 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 adopted at the Fifth 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 in New York on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023;

**AND WHEREAS**, the objective of this Agreement is to better implement the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea, especially to protect and conserve the vast geographical areas beyond national jurisdiction, through better cooperation and coordination of various stakeholders;

**AND WHEREAS**, the agreement emphasizes addressing biological diversity loss and degradation of ecosystems of the ocean, due to climate change impacts on marine ecosystems, such as warming and ocean deoxygenation, as well as ocean acidification, pollution, including plastic pollution, and unsustainable use;

**AND WHEREAS**, the goal of the Treaty is to advance scientific research globally, ensure compatibility with existing roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders, and address existing inequalities in sharing and accessing the benefits accrued from the organisms of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and the associated digital sequence information;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying this Agreement pursuant to Article 66 of the said agreement;

**AND WHEREAS**, section 61A(2)(a) of the Belize Constitution provides that the Senate has the power to authorise the ratification, including adherence or accession, of any treaty by the Government of Belize;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable Senate, having examined the said agreement, authorises the Government of Belize to ratify 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, a copy of which is hereto annexed.