



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**Fifty-fifth Session of the Executive Council**  
UNESCO, Paris, 14–17 June 2022

Item 4.2 of the Provisional Agenda

**IOC CONTRIBUTION TO UN PROCESSES**  
**(BBNJ, UNFCCC, AND UN OCEAN CONFERENCE)**

Summary

This document provides information on outcomes and contribution of IOC to a number of UN processes relevant to ocean affairs that took place during the intersessional period. These are the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Conference for an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ); and the preparations for the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon. The Final draft Declaration for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference of 25 May 2022 is annexed to this document (in English only).

Decision proposed: The Executive Council is requested to take note of these developments and further encourage IOC Member States to engage in these intergovernmental fora, highlighting the role of ocean science and contribution of IOC. The draft decision on this item is referenced as Dec. EC-55/4.2 in the Provisional Action Paper (IOC/EC-55/AP).

## Introduction

1. IOC enjoys a recognized role in the UN system, in accordance with its Statutes. As a competent international organization in the fields of Marine Scientific Research and Transfer of Marine Technology, IOC contributes to various UNCLOS processes, including the emerging international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction known as BBNJ.

2. The IOC also contributes to major UN global agreements and frameworks including: the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the stand-alone Goal 14 on the ocean, also acting as a custodian UN agency for reporting on SDG Targets 14.3 and 14.a; the UNFCCC Paris Agreement by advocating for the increasing role of the ocean; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the SIDS SAMOA Pathway.

3. Whilst the COVID situation impacted the convening of several of these international processes, a number of advancements have been achieved in the last two years, which are reported in this document.

4. Building on the guidance of Member States, IOC plays a pivotal role in these processes in bringing together the scientific communities, the governmental decision-making system, and a broader set of stakeholders within our Member States, including the private sector and the civil society, to generate authoritative knowledge and develop efficient, science-based integrated ocean management and corresponding solutions.

## Contribution to the UNFCCC process – COP 26, Glasgow, UK

5. The UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP 26) brought together 120 world leaders and over 40,000 registered participants. For two weeks, the world was riveted on all facets of climate change—the science, the solutions, the political will to act, and clear indications of action. The outcome of COP 26—[the Glasgow Climate Pact](#)—is the fruit of intense negotiations among almost 200 countries over the two weeks, strenuous formal and informal work over many months, and constant engagement both in-person and virtually for nearly two years.

6. Specifically relevant to the Ocean-climate nexus, Article 60 of the final decision (1/CP.26) invites the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based actions in their existing mandates and workplans. Article 61 introduces the organization of an annual “ocean-climate” dialogue held by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, known as the SBSTA, from June 2022. This decision was warmly welcomed by the ocean community, which was calling for such a measure to be taken at this COP to formally anchor the ocean within the climate negotiations.

7. The Secretariat ensured strong representation at the UNFCCC COP 26 with the participation of the IOC Executive Secretary, IOC Chair and Secretariat. IOC was represented at the Earth Info Day during the main session and corresponding poster session (focus areas) ocean acidification and ocean deoxygenation. IOC further led the organization of several side events focusing on the Ocean Decade, ocean acidification, ocean observations, blue carbon and marine spatial planning, and UN inter-agency cooperation. On 5th of November, during the Marrakech Partnership’s Ocean Action Day, co-organized by the Ocean & Climate Platform and the High-level Climate Champions, over 40 experts took part in discussions on scaling-up ocean-based climate solutions to ensure a resilient, nature-positive and net-zero future. The IOC Executive Secretary took part in the High-Level Opening and delivered a keynote speech on the opportunities and challenges of ocean science in support of ocean and climate change. In preparation of the Ocean Action Day, IOC co-lead together with IUCN the preparation of the Marrakech Partnership pathway focusing on ocean and coastal zones.

8. Key messages conveyed by the IOC Secretariat at COP 26 included:
- (i) Increasing the global recognition that a healthy and productive ocean is a key source of solutions both for climate mitigation and adaptation, and that rigorous and immediate action, based on ocean science and observation, needs to be scaled-up to preserve marine ecosystems, ensure resilient aquatic food production and support adaptation and resilience-building for coastal communities;
  - (ii) A sustainably and equitably-managed ocean is recognised as the necessary condition to create the enabling environment to accelerate the implementation of ocean-based climate solutions for a net-zero and resilient world;
  - (iii) Call for implementing the necessary conditions for increased action and support, and in particular the scaling-up of research within the ocean-climate nexus, and public and private funding for ocean-based climate solutions, in line with the objective of and challenges identified by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).
9. The IOC Secretariat plans further engagement in both:
- the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue taking place on 15 June 2022. IOC proposed topics for the Dialogue to address in March 2022 and the IOC Executive Secretary will deliver a statement in the opening segment.
  - Dr Margaret Leinen, Co-chair of the Decade Advisory Board will also address the Research Dialogue under UNFCCC SBSTA on 9 June 2022. In addition, IOC presents two posters during the Research Dialogue presenting IOC's work on ocean acidification and blue carbon.

### **Contribution to the International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)**

10. In its resolution 72/249 of 24 December 2017, the UN General Assembly decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible.

11. The first session was convened from 4 to 17 September 2018, the second session from 25 March to 5 April 2019 and the third session from 19 to 30 August 2019. The fourth session, which was postponed by decisions 74/543 and 75/570 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, was convened from 7 to 18 March 2022. A fifth session of the Conference is being convened from 15 to 26 August 2022 pursuant to General Assembly decision 76/564 (available as [A/76/L.46](#)).

12. IOC actively contributed to the negotiation process. In September 2020, the Secretariat prepared a Non-Paper on existing and potential future services of the IOC-UNESCO in support of a future ILBI for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) ([IOC/INF-1387](#)). During the intersessional work, IOC participated in two webinars organised by the ICG President Rena Lee (Singapore) on the Clearing-House Mechanism (14 October and 2 November 2021), and presented the work of IOC in relation to capacity development and data and information management, as well as the IOC Clearing-House mechanism currently in development as part of the Ocean InfoHub project.

13. The IOC Secretariat was unable to participate in person at the 4<sup>th</sup> ICG because of COVID restrictions. At ICG-4, further consensus was reached on the management and modalities of the Clearing-House Mechanism, with some convergence stating that the Clearing-House Mechanism foreseen will be managed by the BBNJ Secretariat, potentially with support from other bodies

(including IOC). A new text of the draft ILBI was released on 31 May 2022 by the President of the ICG and is available [here](#).

### **Contribution to the UN Ocean Conference, Lisbon, Portugal**

14. Preparations are well underway for 2022 UN Ocean Conference planned to take place in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022. The central theme of the Conference is “Scaling up Ocean Action based on science and innovation for the period 2020–2030: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”. The Conference will also provide input to the review of SDG 14 by the High-Level Policy Forum that will meet in July 2022.

15. IOC directly supported the conference by leading the preparation of concept papers of Interactive Dialogue #4 (Ocean acidification) and #6 (scientific research). The 8 Interactive Dialogue will be organised around high-level panels taking place during the week. The IOC Executive Secretary will be a panellist in ID#6 on 30 June.

16. The 8 Interactive Dialogue will address:

ID#1 Addressing Marine Pollution.

ID#2 Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems

ID#3 Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming

ID#4 Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

ID#5 Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for small island developing States and least developed countries

ID#6 Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology.

ID#7 Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

ID#8 Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

17. The Conference will adopt the “Lisbon Declaration” which has been negotiated by UN Member States and is available in Annex to this document. The Declaration in paragraph 12, refers to:

*the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and its vision to achieve the science we need for the ocean we want*

and expresses support towards

*the Decade’s mission to generate and use knowledge for the transformational action needed to achieve a healthy, safe and resilient ocean for sustainable development by 2030 and beyond.*

Finally, the Declaration expresses

*full support for the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in implementing the Decade and commit to supporting these efforts.*

The Declaration further emphasizes other important areas of work of the Commission. It stresses the importance of science-based and innovative action in relation to integrated ocean management, planning and decision-making, climate change adaptation, and reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience. Paragraph 14 calls *inter alia* to:

*strengthen international, regional, sub-regional and national scientific and systematic observation and data collection efforts, including of environmental and socio-economic data, especially in developing countries, and improve the timely sharing and dissemination of data and knowledge, including by making data widely accessible through open access databases (...)*

18. IOC will lead the organisation with other partners of several high-level events related to the Decade, as well as IOC programmatic areas.

19. Key planned events include:

- High level Meeting of the Ocean Decade Alliance, 27 June 2022, 11.30-13.00 (Blue Zone), under the auspice of the Presidents of Kenya and Portugal and UNESCO Director-General.
- Accelerating Action Tackling Tsunami Risk: Partnerships and Solutions for A Safe Ocean Resilient to Tsunamis, 27 June 17:30-18:45 (Blue zone).
- UNESCO-UN/DOALOS Regular Process side event: Ocean Science and Its Policy Interface: from Knowledge to Sustainable Ocean Solutions, 28 June 17:30-18:45; where the pilot edition of the IOC *State of the Ocean Report* will be presented.
- The Ocean Decade Forum, 30 June, 14.30-17.00, Cienca Viva Museum.
- Taking Action to address Ocean Acidification and Implement SDG 14.3, 29 June, 15.00-16.00 (Blue Zone).
- Seabed 2030: Mapping for People and Planet, 29 June, 18.00-20.00, Myriad Hotel.

20. The full programme of IOC engagement will be available on the UNESCO and IOC websites: <https://www.unesco.org/en/un-ocean-conference-2022>.

**Annex: Final draft Declaration for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference,  
Lisbon, 27 June–1<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

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26 May 2022

Excellency,

Reference is made to our letter dated 25 May 2022, placing the final draft political declaration for the 2022 United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.14 (UN Ocean Conference), under silence procedure until Thursday, 26 May at 5:00 p.m.

It is our great pleasure to inform you that the silence procedure has concluded without objection. We will therefore present this final consensual text to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, for its formal adoption by acclamation by our Heads of State and Government at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, in Lisbon, Portugal.

Once again, we would like to express our gratitude for your support, active engagement and constructive spirit throughout this process.

We further thank the President of the General Assembly for bestowing upon us the honour to represent him in this process. We are grateful for this opportunity.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Handwritten signature of Ms. Keisha A. McGuire in black ink.

Ms. Keisha A. McGuire  
Permanent Representative of Grenada  
to the United Nations

Handwritten signature of Mr. Martin Bille Hermann in black ink.

Mr. Martin Bille Hermann  
Permanent Representative of Denmark  
to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations New York

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**Our ocean, our future, our responsibility**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives meeting in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022 at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”, with the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, reaffirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources. Greater ambition is required at all levels to address the dire state of the ocean. As leaders and representatives of our Governments, we are determined to act decisively and urgently to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystems.
2. We reaffirm the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”, adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017.
3. We recognize that the ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future. The ocean is an important source of the planet’s biodiversity and plays a vital role in the climate system and water cycle. The ocean provides a range of ecosystem services, supplies us with oxygen to breathe, contributes to food security, nutrition and decent jobs and livelihoods, acts as a sink and reservoir of greenhouse gases and protects biodiversity, provides a means for maritime transportation, including for global trade, forms an important part of our natural and cultural heritage, and plays an essential role in sustainable development, a sustainable ocean-based economy and poverty eradication. We underline the interlinkages and potential synergies between Goal 14 and the other Sustainable Development Goals, and recognize that the implementation of Goal 14 can contribute significantly to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, which is integrated and indivisible in its nature.
4. We are therefore deeply alarmed by the global emergency facing the ocean. Sea levels are rising, coastal erosion is worsening, and the ocean is warmer and more acidic. Marine pollution is increasing at an alarming rate, a third of fish stocks are overexploited, marine biodiversity continues to decrease and approximately half of all living coral has been lost, while alien invasive species pose a significant threat to marine ecosystems and resources. While progress has been made towards the achievement of some targets of Goal 14, action is not advancing at the speed or scale required to meet our goals. We deeply regret our collective failure to achieve targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6 that matured in 2020, and we renew our commitment to taking urgent action and to cooperate at global, regional and sub-regional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay.
5. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and we are deeply alarmed by the adverse effects of climate change on the ocean and marine life, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, the decrease in polar ice coverage, shifts in the abundance and distribution of marine species, including fish, decrease in marine biodiversity, as well as coastal erosion and extreme weather events and related impacts on island and coastal communities, as highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its special report entitled *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and its successive reports.

6. We emphasize the particular importance of implementing the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the goal to limit the temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, and help ensure the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and thus our future. We recall that Article 2.2 of the Paris Agreement states that it will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. We also emphasize the need to adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change. We reaffirm the importance of implementing the Glasgow Climate Pact on mitigation, adaptation and the provision and mobilization of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to developing countries, including small island developing States. We welcome the decision by the Parties to recognize the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems, including marine ecosystems, to deliver crucial services, including acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts and supporting sustainable livelihoods, including for indigenous peoples and local communities. We further welcome the invitation to relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in relevant mandates and workplans and the invitation to the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to hold an annual dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action.
7. We are deeply concerned by the findings about cumulative human impacts on the ocean, including ecosystem degradation and species extinctions, as highlighted by the Second World Ocean Assessment and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services *Global Assessment Report*, as well as on food safety and human health as recognized in the One Health approach. We recognize the need for transformative change and are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health of the ocean's ecosystems and biodiversity and to protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity. We call for an ambitious, balanced, practical, effective, robust and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the second part of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties the Convention on Biological Diversity. We take note of the voluntary commitments by more than 100 Member States to conserve or protect at least 30 percent of the global ocean within Marine Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030. We emphasize that strong governance and adequate financing for developing countries, in particular small island developing States, is essential to effectively implement and maintain such Areas and measures. We also recognize the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and its call to support and scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.
8. We welcome the decision by UNEA 5.2 to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities.



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9. We recognize the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ocean-based economy and in particular the ocean-based economy of small island developing States, which have been disproportionately adversely affected by the pandemic, given their dependence on the ocean-based economy, as well as on seafarers and the fishing community. We also recognize the threat to ocean health caused by the COVID-19 pandemic due to improper waste management, including of plastic waste, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), which has exacerbated the problem of marine plastic litter and microplastics in the ocean. We affirm that the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and the advancement of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches play a critical role in ensuring a sustainable, inclusive and environmentally-resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
10. We emphasize that our actions to implement Goal 14 should be in accordance with, reinforce and not duplicate or undermine existing legal instruments, arrangements, processes, mechanisms or entities. We affirm the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want. We note that this year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
11. We recognize the importance of the work being undertaken by 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 and call on participating delegations to reach an ambitious agreement without delay.
12. We also recognize the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and its vision to achieve the science we need for the ocean we want. We support the Decade's mission to generate and use knowledge for the transformational action needed to achieve a healthy, safe and resilient ocean for sustainable development by 2030 and beyond. We fully support the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in implementing the Decade and commit to supporting these efforts.
13. We stress that science-based and innovative actions and international cooperation and partnerships based in science, technology and innovation, in line with the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based approaches, can contribute to the solutions necessary to overcome challenges in achieving Goal 14 in the following ways:
  - a. Informing integrated ocean management, planning and decision-making, through improving our understanding of the impact of cumulative human activities on the ocean and anticipating the impacts of planned activities and eliminating or minimizing their negative effects, as well as the effectiveness of adopted measures,
  - b. Restoring and maintaining fish stocks at levels that produce at least maximum sustainable yield in the shortest time feasible including by implementing science-based management plans, and minimizing waste, unwanted by-catch and discards, as well as combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing including through technological tools for monitoring,

control and surveillance, and ending harmful subsidies in line with target 14.6, as well as through the use of an ecosystem approach to fisheries that protects essential habitats and promotes collaborative processes for decision-making that include all stakeholders, including small-scale and artisanal fisheries, recognizing their role in poverty eradication and ending food insecurity, and the importance of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture,

- c. Mobilizing actions for sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for sufficient, safe and nutritious food, recognizing the central role of healthy oceans in resilient food systems and for achieving the 2030 Agenda,
- d. Preventing, reducing and controlling marine pollution of all kinds, from both land- and sea-based sources, including nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, emissions from the maritime sector, including shipping, pollution from ship wrecks and anthropogenic underwater noise, through improving our understanding of their sources, pathways and impacts on marine ecosystems, and through contributing to comprehensive life-cycle and source-to-sea approaches that include improved waste management,
- e. Preventing, reducing, and eliminating marine plastic litter, including single-use plastics and microplastics, including through contributing to comprehensive life-cycle approaches, encouraging resource efficiency and recycling as well as environmentally sound waste management, ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, developing viable alternatives for consumer and industrial uses, taking into account the full environmental impacts, innovation in product design and environmentally sound remediation of marine plastic litter that is already in marine environments, and recognizing the establishment by UNEA 5.2 of an intergovernmental negotiating committee towards an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution,
- f. Effectively planning and implementing area-based management tools, including effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected Marine Protected Areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning, through, *inter alia*, assessing their multiple ecological, socio-economic and cultural value and applying the precautionary and ecosystem-based approach, in accordance with national legislation and international law,
- g. Developing and implementing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and avert, minimize and address loss and damage, reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience, including through increasing the use of renewable energy technologies, especially ocean-based technologies, reducing the risk of and preparing for ocean-related extreme weather events, including the development of multi-hazard early warning systems and integrating ecosystems-based approaches for disaster risk reduction at all levels and across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and the impacts of sea level rise, reducing emissions from maritime transportation, including shipping, and implementing nature-based solutions,

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ecosystem-based approaches for, *inter alia*, carbon sequestration and the prevention of coastal erosion.

14. We commit to taking the following science-based and innovative actions on an urgent basis, recognizing that developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries, face capacity challenges that need to be addressed:

- a. Strengthen international, regional, sub-regional and national scientific and systematic observation and data collection efforts, including of environmental and socio-economic data, especially in developing countries, and improve the timely sharing and dissemination of data and knowledge, including by making data widely accessible through open access databases, investing in national statistical systems, standardizing data, ensuring interoperability between databases, and synthesizing data into information for policy- and decision-makers, and support capacity building in developing countries to improve data collection and analysis,
- b. Recognize the important role of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, innovation and practices held by indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of social science in planning, decision-making and implementation,
- c. Enhance cooperation at the global, regional, sub-regional, national and local levels in order to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration, knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices within marine scientific research, including through south-south & triangular cooperation and to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technology, including through strengthening science, technology and innovation infrastructure, domestic innovation capabilities, absorptive capacities and the capacity of national statistical systems, in particular in the most vulnerable countries, which face the greatest challenges in collecting, analyzing and using reliable data and statistics,
- d. Establish effective partnerships, including multi-stakeholder, public-private, cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary and scientific partnerships, including by incentivizing the sharing of good practices, giving visibility to well-performing partnerships and creating space for meaningful interaction and networking and capacity building,
- e. Explore, develop and promote innovative financing solutions to drive the transformation to sustainable ocean-based economies, and the scaling up of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches to support the resilience, restoration and conservation of coastal ecosystems, including through public-private sector partnerships and capital market instruments, provide technical assistance to enhance the bankability and feasibility of projects, as well as mainstream the values of marine natural capital into decision-making and address barriers to accessing financing, recognizing that further support is needed from developed countries, especially regarding capacity building, financing and technology transfer,

- f. Empower women and girls, as their full, equal and meaningful participation is key in progressing towards a sustainable ocean-based economy and to achieving Goal 14, and to mainstream a gender perspective in our work to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources,
- g. Ensure that people, especially children and youth, are empowered with relevant knowledge and skills that enable them to understand the importance of and the need to contribute to the health of the ocean, including in decision-making, through promoting and supporting quality education and life-long learning for ocean literacy,
- h. Strengthen the science-policy interface for implementing Goal 14 and its targets, to ensure that policy is informed by the best-available science and relevant indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, and to highlight policies and actions that may be scalable, through processes such as the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects,
- i. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international maritime transportation, especially shipping, as soon as possible, acknowledging the leadership role of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), taking into account its Initial Strategy for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships, looking forward to its upcoming review and noting the need to strengthen its ambitions in order to meet the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, while setting clear interim goals, ensuring that investments in research and development and in new infrastructure such as ports and ships increase resilience in the face of climate impacts and leave no one behind, and noting the impacts on Member States of a measure should be assessed and taken into account as appropriate before adoption of the measure, and particular attention should be paid to the needs of developing countries, especially small island developing States and least developed countries.

15. We commit to implementing our respective voluntary commitments made in the context of the Conference and urge those who have made voluntary commitments at the 2017 Conference to ensure appropriate review and follow-up of their progress.

16. We strongly call upon the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to support the implementation of Goal 14 in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular by enhancing inter-agency coordination and coherence throughout the United Nations system on ocean issues, through the work of UN-Oceans.

17. We know that restoring harmony with nature through a healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient ocean is critical for our planet, our lives and our future. We call upon all stakeholders to urgently take ambitious and concerted action to accelerate implementation to achieve Goal 14 as soon as possible without undue delay.