



**Statement by Minister-Counsellor Emerson Kloss,
Delegate of the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations,
Informal Meeting on UN Oceans Conference declaration**

Mr. President,

Mr. Co-facilitators,

As we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and to strive for economic recovery, action is more necessary than ever to make up for lost time and to put us in track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference presents a unique opportunity to accelerate this kind of action in marine affairs.

I want to assure you that Brazil will be fully engaged in the preparatory process leading to the Conference. Being one of the first countries to sign the Convention on the Law of the Sea and having one of the largest coastal zone in the world, we firmly believe that we can reach ambitious multilateral outcomes on the sustainable management of oceanic resources that benefits all and that leaves no-one behind.

In that regard, we would like to present our contributions to the guiding questions suggested by the co-facilitators to this process.

On the first question, we do believe that the solutions mentioned in the revised draft are still relevant. However, consideration should be given to two other aspects.

First, the importance of holistic and integrated governance arrangements for the design and implementation of public policies related to the ocean. Such arrangements can contribute to more coordinated and efficient national strategies, as shown by our Interministerial Council on Oceanic Resources. Secondly, solutions for data issues, such as the standardization of indicators and methodologies for monitoring marine litter, should also be considered.

With regard to the second question, subparagraphs 11 a, b, c and d precisely define some of our biggest challenges. Nevertheless, the declaration still needs more focus regarding the means of implementation to overcome these challenges. More support is needed so that developing countries can produce the data necessary to track SDG 14 targets and the productive capacities to implement the innovations proposed in the declaration, in line with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.

Furthermore, we believe that is necessary to confront the issue of SDG 14 targets that lapsed in 2020. We not only need to review those targets in light of current circumstances, but also try to identify the reasons why part of them were not achieved.

In the matter of other related negotiations, member states could rely on multilaterally agreed language to signal the indivisible character of the SDGs, in which achievements in one Goal directly benefit the pursuit of others. However, it is essential to preserve the central role played by UNCLOS in the regulation of oceanic affairs and to avoid prejudging the outcomes of going negotiations.

The cross-cutting issue of the COVID-19 pandemic, for its turn, is inescapable. In our view, it needs to be addressed with focus in three aspects: impacts on marine economic activities; recovery of ecosystems due to reduction of such activities; and the aggravated risk of marine litter pollution, due to the increase in production and consumption of disposable material such as gloves and masks.

Mr. President,

Finally, we do believe that the declaration can foster concrete actions on the sustainable management of the ocean by pointing the way forward. In that spirit, the Declaration could benefit from a reference to United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, its call for a transformative ocean science and the challenges, goals and expected outcomes mentioned in its implementation plan.

I thank you.