

Input for the Concept Papers on the Interactive Dialogues for the 2022 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

Republic of Korea

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Overview

Korea welcomes the continued efforts made by the UN to address the challenges of implementing SDG 14. Despite the work pursued in collaboration among governments and the UN, however, the goals we strive towards cannot be achieved by any single actor alone or the current government + UN system. Current efforts need to be complemented by the participation of businesses and civil society. Korea believes that through such concerted action and implementation, we will have a better chance to achieve our goals.

The Interactive Dialogues should continue to involve diverse stakeholders and focus on how we can pursue public-private partnerships. This will require constructive contributions from the next generation, businesses, civil society as well as governments. Korea hopes that the June Conference will be another platform for the international community to gather and seek innovative solutions to achieve SDG 14.

Inputs

As such, Korea would like to present inputs on the following four topics:

1. Addressing marine pollution

Reducing land-based marine pollution

Promoting responsible action by governments, industry/businesses and civil society to significantly reduce land-based pollution sources is crucial. Raising awareness on the need for positive changes towards sustainable consumption habits by sharing efficient national policies and best practices to reduce land-based marine debris will also be important.

Recycling marine debris

Pre-treatment techniques to enhance the recycling rate of marine debris are relatively less developed compared with those that are land-based. Discussions could address technology development to enhance the recycling rate of current marine debris, while seeking international cooperation. The goal would be to reduce marine debris as well as enhance resource efficiency by developing different recycling & pre-treatment techniques tailored to the type (floating, submerged) and source (marine-based, land-

based) of marine debris.

- * The London Convention provides international rules on managing sea-based debris, but we lack such guidance for land-based debris. Discussions on the codification of such rules may be pursued under the relevant UN bodies including the International Law Commission (ILC.)

Addressing Plastic Pollution

Globally, there is growing concern over the increasing levels of plastic pollution, including micro-plastics, and the international community is closely cooperating to address this issue due to its transboundary nature. A case in point is the international community's efforts to adopt a resolution on an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution on the occasion of the upcoming UN Environment Assembly to be held in late February 2022. Against this backdrop, Korea is of the view that the plastic pollution issue needs to be duly addressed in a timely manner at the UN Ocean Conference, recognizing the importance of cooperation at all levels to prevent and combat plastic pollution, which has a negative impact on sustainable development.

Strengthening capacity

Focus should be on strengthening international cooperation and building capacity to raise awareness and efficiently mitigate the impact of marine debris on the marine environment & ecosystem.

2. Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming

Reducing greenhouse gas from ships

To reduce greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, from ships, which can cause ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming, we need to develop and collaborate on ship building technology and the expansion of eco-friendly navigation.

Developing ocean-based clean energy

In the process of addressing climate change, cooperation on reducing greenhouse gases and collaboration to spread 'Ocean-based clean energy' should be discussed among diverse stakeholders.

3. Leveraging interlinkage between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Strengthening the linkage with COP27 to achieve SDGs 13 and 14

The ocean is an integral part of the Earth's climate system, directly linked with

addressing the climate crisis that the international community faces.

The 2021 P4G Seoul Summit and COP26 in Glasgow recognized this ocean-climate nexus and highlighted the importance of ensuring the integrity of ocean and coastal ecosystems in the context of climate change. Such discussions should continue towards COP27.

* At the P4G Seoul Summit in May 2021, a special session on oceans was held where strengthening the linkage between SDG 13 and SDG 14 was discussed.

4. Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems

Restoring coastal blue carbon ecosystems

Coastal blue carbon ecosystems are attracting global attention for their function as ocean carbon sinks as well as for their high biodiversity. Restoring coastal blue carbon ecosystems can be a nature-based solution to climate change. Restoring new coastal wetlands and vegetation in waterfront areas is an effective option to improve carbon removal capacity. In this vein, international cooperation is essential for countries with blue carbon ecosystems in establishing national carbon accounting and narrowing the gaps in science and technological capacity for blue carbon measurement among countries.