

Singapore’s further input to the concept paper on the theme of Interactive Dialogue 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

1 The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea continues to be recognized by the General Assembly (most recently in resolution 76/72 of 9 December 2021) as setting out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and being of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector. It is well-established that the effective implementation of the Convention is key to addressing existing and emerging challenges to the sustainable use of ocean resources, and, hence, the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14).

2 The main challenges to the effective implementation of the Convention continue to relate mainly to lack of capacity, and the need for greater coherence, consistency and coordination across different sectors and regions. These challenges have been accentuated with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a negative impact on ocean governance and threatened to undermine efforts to achieve the SDGs, including SDG 14. During this period, capacity and resource constraints experienced by countries, in particular the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, have been exacerbated. Nevertheless, despite the global attention on pandemic-related challenges, interest in addressing issues relating to the sustainable use of ocean resources has not diminished and efforts to address such issues have continued.

3 In addition to the areas of discussion that Singapore previously suggested, it would be relevant and useful for the interactive dialogue to provide a platform for the sharing of information on new and innovative practices, partnerships and solutions that have been implemented or developed to address or overcome challenges arising from the pandemic that have posed difficulties to the enhancing of the conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources through the implementation of the law of the sea as reflected in the Convention.

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