

Italy's Statement

Informal Consultation on the Declaration for the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

1 February 2022

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to add a few considerations.

Italy supports the idea that the Regional dimension - in particular, Regional Seas Programs and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations - is crucial for the implementation of action plans, measures and policies to effectively respond to emerging global environmental challenges. The regional approach is currently the most suitable tool to overcome challenges that cannot be met by individual States and, at the same time, to encompass the specificities of different marine regions.

The issue of greening in the maritime transport sector, one of the major greenhouse gas producers in the oceans, has been repeatedly highlighted at multiple levels. We support the calls on Member States to pursue policies aimed at improving ship energy efficiency, including measures to reduce emissions of pollutants into the marine environment. The Italian-French SECA (Sulphur Emission Control Area) initiative in the Mediterranean fits well into this context and can be further developed within the interactive dialogues.

We believe the Conference should take heed of the work in progress for the preparation of COP 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with particular regard to the process of defining the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In this context, it should also highlight the importance to work in synergy with COP 15.

It is vital that the Conference provide a contribution to the follow-up of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, ensuring the inclusion of an appropriate reference to marine biodiversity.

Lastly, it is also important to take into due consideration the initiative "30x30" for the ocean and the seas, which is now being discussed in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity on post 2020.