

The 2nd UN Ocean Conference informal meeting_intergovernmental consultations for the declaration

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, 1 February 2022

Thank you, co-facilitator.

The declaration of the 1st UN Ocean Conference, the Call for Action, adopted in 2017, has provided a vital momentum in ocean affairs. Today, five years after the first declaration, we are here to once again suggest ways forward for the international community. My delegation would like to make some comments responding to the questions co-facilitators raised in the letter.

1. My delegation is of the view that the revised draft declaration in front of us is still relevant, that most of its content is valid and it can form a good basis for our consultations. We hope that this declaration will be more specific and strengthened based on the 2017 Call for Action.

2. We have witnessed various developments and challenges in ocean affairs. Taking into account global threats posed by climate change and the ocean-climate nexus, we suggest that the outcome of the UNFCCC COP26 be reflected in the declaration in a positive manner.

3. With regard to the impacts from the pandemic, my delegation is of the view that the preambular part of the declaration reflect the lessons learned that it is necessary to enhance international cooperation and the resolve to redouble efforts to build back better.

4. Regarding the targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, concrete directions must be provided. Recognizing that the deadline of some targets has already passed, we can consider suggesting strengthened targets with new timelines.

5. Before meeting in Lisbon, we have several other ocean-related events, such as the fourth BBNJ intergovernmental conference. My delegation is of the view that the Ocean Conference needs to respect other forums, which have their own mandate. Therefore, recognizing the importance of the work performed through those forums is enough to renew our willingness to make progress.

6. In order for the declaration to be impactful, we believe that more streamlining can be considered, including by integrating paragraphs 10 and 11 into one set of actions the international community needs to take.

We have some more suggestions, which we are happy to share with you and other delegations in written format. My delegation hopes that, by adopting an action-oriented, science-based, and innovative declaration, the 2nd UN Ocean Conference will seize the moment and the international community can muster up the will to implement SDG 14. We stand ready to constructively engage in the upcoming consultations.

Thank you, co-facilitator.

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[Suggestions]

Current text	Suggestions
<p>5. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and are alarmed by the adverse effects of climate change on the ocean, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, shifts in fish distribution, decrease in some fish stocks and other marine biodiversity, as well as coastal erosion and extreme weather events, as established highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its special report entitled <i>The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate</i>. We emphasize that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent priority to ensuring the health, productivity and resilience of the ocean and thus our future.</p>	<p>5. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and are alarmed by the adverse effects of climate change on the ocean, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, shifts in fish distribution, decrease in some fish stocks and other marine biodiversity, as well as coastal erosion and extreme weather events, as established highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its special report entitled <i>The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate</i>. We emphasize that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent priority to ensuring the health, productivity and resilience of the ocean and thus our future.</p> <p><i>5bis. We recognize the need for enhancement of ocean-climate solutions to be addressed within the context of the UNFCCC, and welcome the UNFCCC COP26 decisions to integrate ocean-based action in the existing mandate of UNFCCC bodies as well as hold an annual dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action.</i></p> <p><i>[Rationale]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Reflecting the outcome of the UNFCCC COP26</i>
<p>4. We are ... Sea levels are ... Plastic pollution continues to enter the ocean at an alarming rate, a third of fish stocks are over exploited, and half of all living coral has been lost. ...</p>	<p>4. We are ... Sea levels are ... Plastic pollution Plastic waste, including micro-plastics, continues to enter the ocean at an alarming rate, a third of fish stocks are over exploited, and half of all living coral has</p>

	<p>been lost. ...</p> <p><i>[Rationale]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Considering the context, plastic waste seems more appropriate than plastic pollution.</i> ● <i>Taking into account its severity, the micro-plastic issue can be mentioned as one of the major problems.</i>
<p>11.f. Empower women and girls, as their equal participation is key in progressing towards a sustainable ocean-based economy and to achieving Goal 14, and mainstream a gender perspective in our work to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources, ...</p>	<p>11.f. Empower women and girls, as their equal participation is key in progressing towards a sustainable ocean-based economy and to achieving Goal 14, and mainstream a gender perspective in our work to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources oceans, seas and marine resources, ...</p> <p><i>[Rationale]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Using the same phrase from SDG14, conserve and sustainably use the “oceans, seas and marine resources”</i>
<p>14. We know that a healthy, productive and resilient ocean is critical for our planet, our lives and our future. We call upon all stakeholders to take ambitious and concerted action to accelerate implementation to achieve Goal 14 by 2030.</p>	<p>14. We know that a healthy, productive and resilient ocean is critical for our planet, our lives and our future. We call upon all stakeholders to take ambitious and concerted action to accelerate implementation to achieve Goal 14 and its targets by 2030.</p> <p><i>[Rationale]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Using the same phrase from paragraph 11 (h) (“Goal 14 and its targets”) and emphasizing targets as well as Goal 14</i>