STATEMENT

on the draft declaration for the United Nations Conference
to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

1 February 2022

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

We are grateful to the co-facilitators for convening these consultations and the secretariat for providing support.

The Russian Federation looks forward to the SDG14 Conference in Lisbon with the hope that it will reinvigorate practical action to implement solutions and partnerships in the interest of all and with particular attention to SIDS and other developing countries that are directly linked to the ocean.

Indeed, two years have passed since we last looked at the draft declaration. Yet, challenges remain. Therefore, as per your first question, basic elements of the document are still relevant and have our general support.

Speaking of your second question, we thank you for adding language on science, technology and innovation bearing in mind the overarching theme of the Conference and welcome calls for international cooperation and partnerships in this regard.
Third question. The targets reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that matured in 2020 but were not achieved should be carried over to 2030 in line with the overall timeline of the Agenda. This is a general Russian position for all SDGs with 2020 targets. A more detailed discussion on this matter is a subject of follow-up and review which is a separate process.

Fourth question. The declaration should be coherent with other UN processes such as the ones linked to UNFCCC, CBD and BBNJ. But that, in turn, implies that there should be no intervention in those processes or duplication of efforts. The Conference should also respect the agreements that were already achieved under those frameworks.

Fifth question. According to UNEP, the volume of plastic waste from both land-based sources and seabased activities continues to grow, while personal protective equipment and other plastic items such as those widely used and quickly disposed of during the COVID-19 pandemic are of increasing concern. In this regard the declaration could dedicate more attention to scaling up cooperation and measures to address marine pollution.

Sixth question. The declaration should reflect the common vision of UN Member States on SDG14 implementation in a balanced manner. It can be made more concise if some descriptive and duplicative provisions are streamlined. This will make the document more concrete and focused on actionable provisions.

Excellencies, we also have some surgical but important amendments to the text that we will submit for your consideration by email.

Thank you.