

## 2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE ONLINE STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING: INPUTS TO THE POLITICAL DECLARATION

### ZERO DRAFT

23 March 2022

10:30 – 11:30 AM (EDT, New York)

#### Written Statement

**Jacopo Pasquero (IUCN-CEM-FEG, EBCD)**

The Fisheries Expert Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM-FEG) and the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) welcome the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration. However, the Declaration could further outline the need to strengthen effective fisheries management with a view to ensure the sustainability of fisheries resources. Furthermore, given the increasing urgency to mainstream climate change consideration in fisheries, the Declaration could also better underline the importance to adopt mitigation and adaptation measures in fisheries management. Therefore, the following changes are suggested:

6. We are deeply concerned by the findings about cumulative human impacts on the ocean, including ecosystem degradation and species extinctions and we recognize the need for transformative change, as highlighted by the Second World Ocean Assessment and the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Global Assessment Report. We are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health of the ocean's ecosystems and biodiversity and to protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity. We are encouraged by the commitments by more than 100 Member States to protect at least 30 percent of the global ocean within Marine Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030, while reiterating the need to effectively manage 100 percent of the ocean. We also recognize the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and its call to support and scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. [New language + language from A/RES/71/312, OP5; on DER A/RES/73/284]

11 (b). Restoring depleted fish stocks to levels that produce at maximum sustainable yield in the shortest time feasible and minimizing waste, unwanted by-catch and discards, including through combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and including through the use of communication tools and other technological tools for monitoring, control and surveillance, as well as through We also commit to the use of an ecosystem approach to fisheries, including through that biodiversity mainstreaming in fisheries, protection of essential habitats, and strengthening the integration of climate-related consideration; and to promoting collaborative processes for decision-making that include all stakeholders, including small-scale and artisanal fisheries, recognizing the importance of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

11 (e). Effectively planning and implementing area-based management tools, including marine

protected areas, [other effective area-based conservation measures](#), integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning, through, inter alia, assessing ~~their area-specific~~ ecological, social and cultural values [acknowledging the cultural diversity of value systems](#), and applying the precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches, in accordance with national legislation and international law.

11 (f). Developing and implementing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change [including the impacts of sea level rise](#), reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience, including through increasing the use of renewable energy technologies, especially ocean-based technologies, reducing the risk of and preparing for ocean-related extreme weather events, including the development of multihazard early warning systems and integrating ecosystems-based approaches for disaster risk reduction at all levels and across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and ~~the impacts of sea level rise~~, reducing emissions from ocean-based sectors such as maritime transportation, [fisheries and aquaculture, advancing progress on adaptive management of fisheries and other ocean uses, promoting climate-friendly, nutritious diets](#), and implementing nature-based solutions for, inter alia, carbon sequestration and the prevention of coastal erosion.

In addition to the changes above, the IUCN Fisheries Expert Group and the European Bureau for Conservation and Development would like to suggest moving paragraphs 8 and 9 as early as becoming paragraphs 2 and 3 given the urgency to conclude the work undertaken by the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS.

## CONTACT

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