

CANZ STATEMENT

UNOC Political Declaration consultations

24-25 March 2022

Thank you madam/mister co-facilitator for this opportunity to make a statement on the zero draft of the UN Ocean Conference declaration. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the governments of Canada, New Zealand and my own government, Australia.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand are ocean nations. The ocean connects us to the world. We acknowledge and take seriously the shared global responsibility we have to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of the ocean and its resources.

SDG 14 is vital to our collective future, and critically important to our neighbourhoods. We recognise the important link between the climate and the ocean, and the interconnectedness of the health and resilience of the ocean and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We strongly support a concise and action-oriented declaration, and thank you for the work that you have already done, as co-facilitators, alongside our Conference hosts Kenya and Portugal.

CANZ welcomes, where relevant, references to the Paris Agreement, Glasgow Climate Pact and the **Convention on Biological Diversity**. Work under these agreements bolsters global commitments to conserve and use sustainably the ocean, seas and marine resources, and advance progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We look forward to seeing the co-facilitators suggested text to reflect the excellent **outcome of UNEA 5.2 in Nairobi** that agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to agree an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. In our view, this deserves to be reflected as a standalone paragraph.

We welcome a reference to the BBNJ process in the political declaration. We are encouraged by the recent progress at the fourth intergovernmental conference and look forward to finalizing a treaty that meaningfully protects biodiversity on the high seas.

Finally, CANZ members will submit comments that, among other things, seek to further integrate **disaster risk reduction and resilience** into the declaration. Ocean systems, and any actions that impact on them, have implications for the creation or reduction of disaster risk and the resilience of socio-economic and environmental systems. Therefore, we support the inclusion, where relevant, of references to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

CANZ members will submit our written comments and statements immediately following this meeting. I thank you, distinguished colleagues, and madam/mister co-facilitator for the opportunity to take the floor.