



## **TALKING POINTS**

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE POLITICAL DECLARATION FOR THE 2022 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14 (3 MN) – PARAGRAPHS 1 À 10**

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24 MARS 2022

**Her Excellency Keisha McGuire,**

**His Excellency Martin Bille Hermann,**

1. Gabon would like to congratulate you, in your capacity as co-facilitators, for the dynamic impetus you are giving to our work, with a view to adopting a strong and ambitious declaration for the United Nations Conference on the Oceans to be held this year.
2. The oceans need our entire attention since their health is critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14, which includes ocean preservation, climate change resilience, fisheries resource overexploitation, and marine pollution reduction.
3. Given the unprecedented nature of the biodiversity and climate crises, as the latest IPBES and IPCC reports remind us, ambition for the oceans must be the order of the day, whenever we need to rethink our relationship with marine ecosystems, because of their priceless ecological value, their role in regulating environmental balances, and their contribution to the local and global economy.
4. In order to sustainably manage marine resources and build resilience to climate change, this ambition for the oceans must be transformed into quick, bold,

significant and concerted action to achieve clean, healthy, protected, ecologically represented, and well-connected ocean areas.

5. With regard to the analysis of paragraphs 1 to 10 of the revised draft political declaration for the United Nations Conference on the Oceans, Gabon fully associates itself with the statement made by Pakistan, on behalf of the G77 + China Group.
6. The current draft takes into account the major challenges facing the oceans. However, Gabon wishes to emphasize that it is important that the actions to be taken are consistent with initiatives, legal tools and other legal instruments related to climate and biodiversity.
7. The Declaration should take into account the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, currently under negotiation, which will set global targets to halt biodiversity loss, as well as the results of the Fourth Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.
8. It would also be relevant to develop synergies with the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, which aims to protect at least 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030, and the Blue Leaders Initiative, a coalition of countries advocating for bold action to designate at least 30% of the oceans, as "highly" or "fully" protected marine areas by 2030, in order to maximize the health and resilience of our global ocean.
9. There are many expectations for global ocean governance. This governance has a single goal: preserve the ocean to protect climate, biodiversity and people.

Thank you for attention.



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### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE POLITICAL DECLARATION FOR THE 2022 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14 (3 MN) – PARAGRAPHS 11 À 15**

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25 MARS 2022

**Her Excellency Keisha McGuire,  
His Excellency Martin Bille Hermann,**

1. Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your outstanding performance as co-facilitators.
2. My country congratulates you also on your approach's transparency that allows us to contribute to the political declaration that we want to be strong and ambitious for the 2022 United Nations Conference on the Oceans.
3. Considering the major challenges facing the oceans, the international community aims to build a governance framework to preserve the ocean, and therefore to protect the climate, natural resources and human beings.
4. The Political Declaration provides the opportunity to renew our common ambition, to move from words to actions in order to respond to the threats to the ocean - climate - biodiversity nexus.
5. Gabon fully associates itself with the statement made by Pakistan, on behalf of the G77 + China Group.
6. We take note with interest the consideration of aspects relating to i) integrated ocean management, ii) the implementation of area-based management tools, including high and/or integral protection and interconnected marine areas, iii) the gender dimension, iv) traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, v) the precautionary principle and vi) the ecosystem approach.

7. We also note the relevance of considering adaptation measures, with a focus on nature-based solutions, to solve the climate equation.
8. Improving ocean scientific knowledge, global scientific cooperation, technology transfer, mobilization of funding, and development of technical and financial partnerships are all critical to address threats to the oceans and to fully develop the blue economy.
9. In conclusion, **Madam and Mr. Co-Facilitators**, I would like to reassure you of the full support of Gabon for the Declaration currently under negotiation to promote the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Thank you.