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**Intervention by China at the Second Informal Consultations on the  
Draft Political Declaration for the 2022 United Nations Oceans Conference**  
(19 April 2022)  
(Paragraphs 1 to 11)

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

China appreciates your work and guidance in updating the draft Declaration dated 6 April 2022. At the outset, China aligns itself with the statement and proposals made by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China. In addition, China wishes to make the following proposals and comments in its national capacity:

**1. Regarding para.3, China suggests to merge some general reference related to post-2020 global biodiversity framework into this para. or add a sub-para. as following:**

*3ter. We welcome commitments made in the Kunming Declaration, adopted in the first part of UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) held from 11 to 15 October 2021, in Kunming, China, to develop, adopt and implement an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Based on Kunming Declaration, pp.17, op.1, 4,14,15)*

We believe it is highly relevant to mention the commitments made in the Kunming Declaration to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. On the one hand, the Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the international conventions with the largest number of parties and the widest impact globally, and the topic of marine and coastal biodiversity is an important part of the Convention. Furthermore, as one of the most important international agendas in the field of biodiversity at present, establishing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework is also crucial to synergize the efforts in the protection of ocean, marine & coastal biodiversity and the implementation of SDG 14.

**2. Regarding para.5, China suggests the following modification starting from the 7<sup>th</sup> line of this para:**

“... We recognize, in this regard, the particular importance of the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the] Paris Agreement adopted under the ~~UN Framework Convention on Climate Change~~ [especially the principle of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective

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capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances], including the commitment to [hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and] pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.”

We wish to emphasize here that both the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement are fundamental legal instruments in addressing climate change and they need to be mentioned in an integrated way. The principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities are basic norms enshrined in these instruments. Reference to these principles is critical, consistent and generally accepted to guide our work in tackling the challenges of climate change. The target limit of 1.5°C and 2°C set out in the Paris Agreement and Glasgow Climate Pact should be reflected comprehensively (*see* A/RES/76/205, pp.2, 3 and op.4, 6).

**3. Regarding para.6, China suggests the following modification starting from the 7<sup>th</sup> line of this para:**

“...~~We are encouraged by~~ [take note of] 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. 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.”

It is a clear fact that the objective of protecting at least 30 percent of the global ocean by 2030 (the “30 by 30” objective) is still under discussion on a number of international platforms and divergent views were expressed in previous consultations. So far, it is an initiative and ambitious goal. It is neither an obligation for all Member States nor a target enshrined in the SDG14. Against this background, it would be appropriate to use a neutral language when we refer to this objective in the draft Declaration. In this regard, the Kunming Declaration adopted in COP15 sets a good example which states “*Noting* the call of many countries to protect and conserve 30 per cent of land and sea areas through well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030” (CBD/COP/15/5/Add.1,pp13)

**4. Regarding para.9, China supports the updated language which is in conformity with the agreed language in the 2017 UN Ocean Conference Declaration and it is more relevant to the context.** It is true that the language of

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last draft is cited from the GA ocean omnibus resolution. Still, it is a new language in the context of draft Declaration and obviously the comments from Member States are quite divided. Second, according to the authorization from A/res/73/292, we should adopt “a brief, concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration focusing on SDG 14”. The language used in the para.11 of the 2017 Declaration, which was adopted by consensus, focuses on the SDG 14 and serves the aims of having “a brief, concise, action-oriented” declaration. Third, the language used here has no implication to underestimate the status and value of the UNCLOS.

**5. Regarding para.10, China suggests to revert to the language of the last draft dated 14 February:**

“10. We ~~urge the Parties to conclude in 2022~~ [recognize the importance of concluding] the work ~~being~~ undertaken by the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.”

The current declaration shall not prejudice the ongoing process of other platforms. Neither the General Assembly nor the IGN4 of the BBNJ made decisions to conclude the work in a strict timeline.

Co-facilitators,

Let me once again assure you China’s support to your work. Thank you.

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**Intervention by China for the Second Informal Consultations on the Political Declaration for the 2022 United Nations Oceans Conference**

(19 April 2022)

(Paragraphs 12 to 16)

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

China aligns itself with the statement and proposals made by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China. In addition, China wishes to make the following proposals and comments in its national capacity:

**1. Regarding para.12(g), China suggests either to delete the temperature goal as it is outlined elsewhere or to make a holistic reflection as following:**

“Developing and implementing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact commitment to [hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and] pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 °C,…”

**2. Regarding para.13, China suggests to add a new sub-paragraph after para.13(c) as following:**

[Building Blue Partnership to consolidate and innovate cooperation mechanisms for sustainable ocean-related economy development, better use of ocean resources, scientific and technological innovation, and ecosystem protection.]

Cooperation is of vital importance to ensure the sustainable development of the ocean. Building Blue Partnership will promote a sustainable blue economy and explore possibilities to facilitate closer business-to-business interactions and information exchange. Its implementation can play a major role in achieving SDG14. In practice, there are an amount of blue partnership aiming to promote better ocean governance and policy coordination: in November 2017, a blue partnership was established between China and Portugal, aspiring to build a sustainable marine ecological civilization. In July 2018, China and EU signed an agreement entitled “Blue Partnership for the Oceans: Towards Better Ocean Governance, sustainable fisheries and a thriving maritime economy” aiming to promote better ocean governance and policy coordination between the two parties. In May 2019, the First China-EU Blue Partnership Forum for the Oceans was held by the EU Commission in Brussel, gathering greater eagerness to work together and improve international ocean governance .

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**3. Regarding para.13(d), China suggests to add the following language in the beginning of this sub-para:**

“[Emphasize that the further support is needed from developed countries especially the transfer of technology, capacity building and financing to developing countries, and further stress in this regard that the call in COP26 that developed country Parties should fully deliver on the USD 100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025, and emphasizes the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges.] Explore, develop and promote innovative financing solutions for the development of sustainable ocean-based economies, including through public-private sector partnerships and capital market instruments, provide technical assistance to enhance the bankability and feasibility of projects, as well as mainstream the values of marine natural capital into decision-making and address barriers to accessing financing”

In order to achieve the sustainable development goals, it is crucial for the developed countries to fulfill their responsibility to enhance the capacity building of developing countries. Against this background, it is highly relevant and a clear fact that developed countries reaffirmed their duty to fulfill the pledge of providing 100 billion US dollars annually to developing countries in COP26, which is imperative for developing countries to address increasing impacts of climate change. (*see* para.20, 22 of the 2021 Ministerial Declaration of HLPF, para.27 of the Glasgow Climate Pact, op.13 of A/RES/76/205)

Thank you, Co-facilitators.