Intergovernmental consultations on the political declaration for the 2022 United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

New Zealand Statement delivered by Second secretary, Ms Zoe Russell

19 April 2022
Thank you chair.

First, I would like to join others in the room in thanking the co-facilitators for their work in consolidating the feedback and inputs on the declaration. New Zealand is broadly happy with the text as it stands. Therefore in this intervention on the first half of the text I will only make three suggestions.

First at para 5 in the sentence which begins “We emphasize the importance of implementing the commitments undertaken under the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact” we suggest ending the sentence at “the Glasgow Pact”. This recognises the importance of the Pact itself but also seeks to find a balance between the importance of action and support in this context.

Second, at paragraph 6 we suggest substituting “marine protection measures” for “marine protected areas”. The rationale for this is that the previous sentence refers not only to MPAs but also to “other effective area-based conservation measures”. Our view is that strong governance and adequate financing is required for all forms on marine protection measures, not just MPAs.

Third New Zealand also prefers the original language describing UNCLOS at paragraph 9. This is agreed language from the Oceans Resolution and accurately reflects the status of the Convention.

This concludes our comments on part one of the declaration. We will send in our comments in writing, and we will also make an intervention on the second half of the text.
New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Te Aka Aorere

Intergovernmental consultations on the political declaration for the 2022 United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

New Zealand Statement delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative, Mr Shannon Tau

19 April 2022
Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor again and I would like to reiterate our thanks to the co-facilitators for your leadership so far, and toward conclusion of the declaration.

We have some relatively brief comments on the second set of paragraphs.

First, at 12(b).
- We strongly support the inclusion of the new language on harmful fish subsidies and we request that this is retained. Urgent conclusion of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations is now overdue. Conclusion is essential for the health and sustainability of global fish stocks. We are now closer to conclusion than ever before and must retain that ambition and momentum.
- Secondly, and on a similar note, we can support Iceland’s proposal to amend the first sentence to read “Restoring and maintaining fish stocks to at levels that produce at least maximum sustainable yield.”

Moving on to 12(g) we have two points. First we propose replacing the reference to “especially” with “including” as follows: “through increasing the use of renewable energy technologies, especially including ocean-based technologies...”. This accommodates our position, or at least our question, whether ocean-based technologies have a greater emission reduction impact than land-based technologies.

Secondly at 12(g) we propose adding language as follows: “...pursuing zero emissions shipping by 2050”. This would replace the language that reads “reducing emissions from maritime transportation, including shipping. The stronger language is more in line with commitments made by the international community. We note the interaction with para 13 (i) and references and delegation comments to the IMO, which will require some further consideration. We would support a high-level of ambition here.

I thank you