



UNOC- 3rd informal consultations 19 April 2022

Statement – Norway

Thank you to the co-facilitators and the Secretariat for the preparations for this meeting.

The UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon will be decisive in increasing ocean action and mobilization to ensure a **healthy and productive ocean** for future generations. Norway will take an active role during the conference to share experience and recommendations from the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy on key ocean issues.

The Our Ocean Conference that took place in Palau last week was crucial in bringing the global ocean community together and in making us deliver concrete voluntary commitments for the ocean's health. Norway presented a list of concrete commitments, **including support to the World Bank's Problue fund and increased support to sustainable aquaculture in developing countries** via FAO and bilateral programs.

Many solutions were discussed in Palau, from **nature-based** such as mangrove and seagrass forests, to **ocean-based renewable energy solutions**, and **green shipping**. Now let's make sure that we build on the lessons learned and the momentum from Palau in planning the UN Conference in Lisbon. Lisbon will be crucial in promoting SDG 14 and to stop the decline in the ocean's health.

In our opinion the draft declaration has been updated in a good way since our last meeting. We will be happy to provide some written input to the Secretariat with suggestions for some minor adjustments.

We welcome the fact that draft declaration now includes an explicit reference to the establishment by UNEA-5.2 of an intergovernmental negotiating committee towards an **international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution** (in para. 12). This agreement will have substantial positive impact on ocean health.

We also welcome the fact that para. 4 now has a broader reference to "**marine pollution**" and that the new chapeau of para. 12 underlines the **importance of science, innovation, and international cooperation for SDG 14**. We do believe, however, that **COP 15 and COP 26 should be referenced** by the names of their respective conventions in the declaration.

Finally, Norway would also like to reiterate that **creating a sustainable ocean economy is critical to achieving SDG 14 specifically, but also most of the other SDGs**. Sustainable ocean management is key to achieve a sustainable ocean economy. We therefore **suggest adding in para. 6 an encouragement for Member States to manage 100% of their national waters sustainably by 2030**.