



**STATEMENT  
BY  
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE DECLARATION FOR THE  
2022 UN CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
GOAL 14: “CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND  
MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”  
(19 April 2022, New York)**

Turkey would like to thank the co-facilitators for organizing this third informal meeting for the declaration of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference to support the implementation of SDG14.

We appreciate your efforts and guidance in revising the draft Declaration, reflecting the Member States’ comments and proposals with a view to reaching an action-oriented, concise and consensus-based outcome document for the Conference.

Turkey would like to make the following proposals and comments regarding the revised draft Declaration dated 6 April 2022:

i) In paragraph 6, we observe that the reference to the commitments of a number of Member States to protect at least 30 percent of the global ocean within Marine Protected Areas by 2030, has been preserved in the text without any revision.

We had expressed our reservations to this sentence in the previous consultations held on 24 March. The statement we made in that meeting can be accessed from the website of the 2022 Ocean Conference. Having said the foregoing, considering that we have limited time left for consultations, and in line with the spirit of flexibility, rather than proposing to change this sentence in a more substantive and lengthy manner, we propose to add the word “voluntary” before the word “commitments”. Thus, the sentence would read as follows:

“We are encouraged by the voluntary 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.”

This proposal aims to further clarify the concerned language, and to ensure that it is in line with and that it appropriately reflects the understanding in General Assembly Resolution 73/292. We hope that this small but important addition will be made in the next version of the draft Declaration.

ii) Regarding paragraph 9, we note with appreciation that the former non-consensual language was revised so as to revert to the consensus-based and more focused language used in SDG14 and the Declaration entitled “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action” adopted at the UN Ocean Conference of 2017. This language, which was agreed upon as a result of extensive negotiations and compromise from all sides, is without doubt more appropriate in terms of the context of the upcoming Conference. Moreover, it ensures inclusivity in line with the mandate given by General Assembly Resolution 73/292.

iii) We welcome the addition of paragraph 13(i) to address the greenhouse gas emissions from international maritime transportation, especially shipping. In order to complement this paragraph, we propose to add a new sentence as follows:

*“We welcome the decision adopted at COP 22 of the Barcelona Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean on “Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI”, in order to combat against the triple crisis of pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change.”*

In our first consultations on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, Turkey had highlighted the important outcomes of COP 22 of the Barcelona Convention, held in December 2021. We had also proposed a comprehensive new paragraph to reflect these recent outcomes that directly concern the protection of marine environment. As can be seen, we have since then revised our proposal to make the language more concise and focused. We hope that this will be helpful in terms of delegations’ consideration.

Considering the importance of the referenced decision adopted at the aforementioned COP meeting, and its relevance in respect of the current draft Declaration, we kindly ask for the inclusion of this new language in the next revised version of the draft text.

Thank you.