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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Interactive dialogues

Interactive dialogue 8: Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Concept paper prepared by the Secretariat

Summary

The present concept paper was prepared pursuant to paragraph 23 of General Assembly resolution 73/292, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to prepare concept papers on each of the themes of the interactive dialogues, taking into account the relevant ocean-related processes of the Assembly and other possible contributions. The present paper relates to interactive dialogue 8, entitled "Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". In the paper, the status, trends, challenges and opportunities for the achievement of relevant targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14 are set out, under the overarching theme of the Conference: "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions".

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I. Introduction

1. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, States Members of the United Nations committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner and announced 17 integrated and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals reflecting that commitment. None of the Goals, including Sustainable Development Goal 14, can be achieved in isolation from the others, and progress towards the achievement of one Goal entails progress towards the achievement of the others. Goal 14 is linked in various ways to all other Goals. It is critical to take these linkages into account when focusing on action taken to achieve Goal 14.[1] For instance, the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action", adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017 (2017 United Nations Ocean Conference), called for an integrated and coordinated approach towards the implementation of Goal 14 and for the promotion of policies and actions that take into account the critical interlinkages and potential synergies between Goal 14 and other Goals, particularly those with ocean-related targets. This approach offers tremendous prospects for achievement in fighting for a sustainable future in which no one is left behind. The present concept paper is based on inputs received from Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations system and other stakeholders.[2]

2. Addressing interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals in national implementation opens up new opportunities for Governments to secure the sustainable long-term development of the ocean and consequently raise the prominence of ocean issues. Incorporating ocean issues into scientific and policy dialogues and policies related to sustainable development, including those focused on poverty reduction, food security, social justice, gender equality, public health, urban basic services and climate change, can assist not only in achieving these aims but also in promoting actions towards sustainably restoring and maintaining ocean health.

3. This paper aims towards stimulating discussion concerning how leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals can help accelerate the implementation of Goal 14. It analyses those interlinkages and the challenges and opportunities associated with leveraging them and highlights both existing partnerships that have achieved breakthroughs in harnessing the positive links between Goal 14 and other Goals and possible future partnerships.

II. Interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals

4. Interlinkages exist between the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and between Goal 14 and other Goals and their targets. A systematic exploration of these interlinkages contributes to policy coherence as well as multidisciplinary and multisectoral dialogue, while creating a better understanding of where synergies need to be managed across the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals.[3]

[1] David Le Blanc, Clovis Freire and Marjo Vierros, "Mapping the linkages between oceans and other Sustainable Development Goals: a preliminary exploration", DESA Working Paper, No. 149 (February 2017). Available at www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2017/wp149_2017.pdf.

[2] Given constraints on the number of words, not all inputs have been included in their entirety; however, submissions can be accessed at www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022/documentation.

[3] International Council for Science, *A Guide to SDG Interactions: From Science to Implementation*. Available at https://pure.iiasa.ac.at/id/eprint/14591/1/SDGs-Guide-to-Interactions.pdf.

It provides the basis for maximizing mutually beneficial actions at the national and international levels in the long term, creating economies of scale for implementing the Goals and acknowledging and minimizing trade-offs in the achievement of different goals. Such an exploration also allows Governments and other stakeholders to collaborate towards achieving collective and scaled-up impacts across multiple interacting policy domains.[4]

5. At the national level, context matters in determining whether certain linkages and co-benefits are – or can be – realized. Each country is unique in its economic, social and environmental circumstances and the measures for integrated implementation likely reflect those circumstances. In practice, Sustainable Development Goal interactions must be characterized holistically in specific local, national or regional contexts[5] to allow for discussion and analysis of scenarios where the interests of multiple stakeholders are acknowledged. The time and spatial scales over which synergies and trade-offs take place also affect national implementation.[6] For example, intensifying food production and fisheries exploitation to end hunger in places where resources are scarce may be feasible in the short term but can, over time, deplete fisheries and forests. Investing in measures to restore ocean health and fishery resources will likely provide long-term benefits to food security while also providing a foundation for the development of national sustainable ocean-based economies.

6. Several studies evaluating the interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals have concluded that all Goals are connected with Goal 14 to differing degrees and in differing respects.[7] Interlinkages can exist among a given Goal's targets, between the targets of different Goals and between Goals more generally. The 10 targets of Goal 14 are linked to different Goals-related areas. While some targets have limited or narrow connections to other Goals, others link to several different Goals and targets in multiple ways.[8] The present section, which focuses mainly on the synergetic interlinkages between Goal 14 and other Goals, is based on inputs received for this theme. Some examples of the interlinkages between Goal 14 and other Goals are provided directly below.

7. *Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 1*. A healthy, productive and resilient ocean is a critical enabler of poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth and contributes to ending income and multidimensional poverty. A healthy ocean can produce approximately $3 trillion–$6 trillion in economic value annually,[9] supporting upward of 3 billion people.[10] Sustainably managing and protecting the ocean and its ecosystems are key to securing the economic benefits it provides, including in terms of tourism, food, transportation, trade, energy, biotechnology, pharmaceutical development and coastal protection. Protection, restoration and management of critical coastal and marine habitats have direct links to poverty eradication, improving livelihoods and reducing vulnerability related to extreme climate events. Sustainable tourism, fisheries and coastal agriculture in small island developing States and least developing countries can create employment which

[4] Ibid.

[5] Måns Nilsson, Dave Griggs and Martin Visbeck, "Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals", *Nature*, vol. 534, No. 7607 (16 June 2016). Available at www.nature.com/articles/534320a.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Gerald G. Singh and others, "A rapid assessment of co-benefits and trade-offs among Sustainable Development Goals", *Marine Policy*, vol. 93 (July 2018). Available at www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X17302026.

[8] Le Blanc, Freire and Vierros, "Mapping the linkages between oceans and other Sustainable Development Goals".

[9] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Exploring the potential of the blue economy". Available at www.un.org/en/desa/exploring-potential-blue-economy.

[10] See www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/.

reduces income poverty. Of the 120 million people who are dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods, almost 97 per cent are in developing countries and more than 90 per cent participate in small-scale fisheries.[11] Shipping also helps lift millions of people out of poverty by providing employment and improved access to basic materials, goods and products. However, while shipping is a large growth business spreading economic and social benefits, it increases carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions and pollution, which have an impact on human health (Goal 3). Collectively, increased economic activities aimed at poverty alleviation, if resource-intensive in nature, can create increased and multiple pressures on coastal and marine resources, leading to environmental harm and long-term economic costs.

Interlinkages with Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3

8. The links between fisheries, food security and nutrition (Goal 2) and health and well-being (Goal 3) are well established. For example, marine protein is a staple of the diet of many persons in the Asia-Pacific region, reaching up to 37 per cent of total protein consumption.[12] A healthy, sustainably managed ocean can contribute significantly to addressing increased food demand from a growing population, which cannot be met by land-based agriculture alone. Seafood is a major factor in food security, with fisheries and aquaculture having produced 156 million tons of seafood for direct human consumption in 2018, representing an annual average rate of increase of 3.1 per cent in the period from 1961 to 2017. Globally, fish provided more than 3.3 billion people with almost 20 per cent of their average annual per capita intake of animal protein in 2017.[13]

9. However, the global demand for fish in the absence of appropriate fisheries management contributes to the ongoing depletion of fish stocks and the degradation of marine habitats and ecosystems. Since 2018, the proportion of all wild stocks of the world's fisheries that are overexploited has increased slightly to 34.2 per cent,[14] highlighting the challenges that still exist with respect to sustainable fisheries management which threaten the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3.

10. The ocean also provides numerous other benefits to human health and well-being in the form of ecosystem services, including climate regulation, resources and recreational and cultural values. Ecosystems support organisms that can serve as the source of future medicinal products, with cancer, HIV and pain medications from marine sources having already been developed.

11. *Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 4*. Educating the public about the importance of the ocean enhances ocean literacy, which is an important component of an enabling environment for coastal and marine science and management and creates a link between Goal 4 on education and Goal 14. Ocean literacy improves societal understanding of the ocean's importance, supporting public demand for its conservation and sustainable use. In addition, improved opportunities for scientific education and developing research capacity better enable developing country scientists to participate in regional and global scientific networks, leading to improved knowledge, capacity and technology for management of coastal and ocean resources both in such countries and more widely. Increasing the capacity of young

[11] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020* (Rome, 2020). Available at www.fao.org/3/ca9229en/ca9229en.pdf.

[12] Steve Needham and Simon Funge-Smith, *The Consumption of Fish and Fish Products in the Asia-Pacific Region Based on Household Surveys* (Bangkok, FAO, 2015). Available at www.fao.org/3/i5151e/i5151e.pdf.

[13] FAO, *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020*.

[14] Ibid.

scientists, particularly women, is important for promoting future innovative research and for creating a direct link with Goal 5 (see below). Indeed, with diverse and sustainable blue economies requiring a well-trained workforce, opportunities for further education are manifold.

12. *Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 5*. The achievement of Goal 14 can also contribute to gender equality (Goal 5). The inclusion of women in decision-making and incorporation of a gender perspective can result in more effective ecosystem management. However, women are usually not included in decisions regarding the management of coastal and marine resources.[15] In 2016, only one of the top 100 seafood companies was run by a woman. While gender differences in access to resources and opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector are increasingly recognized, there is a need to engage in more meaningful and relevant gender analysis to improve socio-ecological approaches to fisheries research and management. Gender equality is an overarching goal which is crucial, inter alia, to ensuring equal rights of access to marine and coastal resources and related markets. Women represent the majority of people engaged in secondary activities related to marine fisheries and aquaculture, such as fish processing and marketing, and their inclusion in fisheries and marine areas management is important for the success of these measures. Increased training, access to technology, credit and employment opportunities have the potential to promote gender equality in decision-making and to support gainful employment.

13. *Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 6*. Fresh water and salt water are closely interconnected. The oceans and seas are major sources of water in the hydrological cycle and therefore require coordinated sustainable management through integrated water and coastal management with the involvement of other water actors. Following a basin approach (source to sea/ridge to reef), ocean sustainability is directly linked to sustainable water management. Preventing marine pollution and reducing sediment run-off from land contribute to improving marine water quality, resulting in healthier coastal and marine ecosystems. Halving the proportion of untreated wastewater (indicator 6.3.1) is likely to relieve fresh and marine water of significant parts of their biochemical oxygen demand and nutrient loads and contribute greatly to both reducing marine pollution and adverse impacts on the marine and coastal environments and allowing for their restoration. The implementation of integrated water resources management at national and transboundary levels therefore has positive effects on sustainable freshwater management and use and in turn on marine and coastal pollution and ecosystems management (Goals 14.1 and 14.2), as well as on species migrating within or between freshwater and marine realms. Wetlands protect water quality by trapping sediments and retaining excess nutrients, carbon and other pollutants, demonstrating a direct linkage between wetlands and ocean health.

Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 7

14. Increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix and improving energy efficiency, reliability and affordability will enhance sustainability and help reduce ocean acidification through reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The ocean offers ample clean energy opportunities. Various reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlight the ocean's role in relation to many

[15] UN-Women and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2021*. Available at www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/Progress-on-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals-The-gender-snapshot-2021-en.pdf.

promising avenues of climate change mitigation.[16] Wind farms in coastal and marine areas, tidal and wave power, floating solar and ocean thermal energy conversion are promising technologies, currently at differing levels of development, for non-carbon based energy production contributing to energy security. Infrastructure foundations can act as artificial reefs supporting fish populations. Additionally, the maritime sector can contribute to achieving Goal 7 by improving low-carbon energy efficiency in shipping.

15. Certain technologies, however, could have negative impacts on marine ecosystems and species, for example, through affecting underwater or seabird migration patterns or increasing spatial competition with other ocean uses, including for coastal and marine protected areas, fisheries, aquaculture and tourism. Ocean energy systems, including wave energy and floating solar, may place stress on marine ecological systems which requires further research and appropriate mitigation. Recent technologies, including large-scale offshore wind farms and submarine power cables, can also impact ocean life. Sourcing of the critical metals required in the construction of some renewable energy technologies may have environmental impacts, including on deep sea environments and biodiversity, which points to the need to further develop a circular economy. Continuous monitoring of environmental impact can help ensure a sustainable future for the ocean.

Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 8

16. Globally, 820 million people depend on aquaculture and coastal and maritime tourism for their livelihoods. Fisheries provide livelihoods for the 500 million people involved in the sector and contribute $235 billion annually to the world economy. This contribution could increase by an additional $80 billion annually with significant governance reform, including through an approximate 44 per cent reduction in fishing levels.[17] Overfishing creates economic losses and countering those losses requires governance reform and time for overfished stocks to recover, leading to increased long-term fishing harvests, food security and job creation. In the shorter term, however, reducing fishing capacity will jeopardize fishers' livelihoods, with an ensuing need for financing and alternative jobs.[18] Thus, the relationship between Goals 8 and 14 with regard to fisheries is complicated: long-term ecological and economic benefits may require short-term economic sacrifices and associated socioeconomic impacts.

17. Sustainable growth of marine and maritime sectors supports employment and economic growth and has great future potential. In the European Union, the blue economy accounts for roughly 5.4 million jobs and a gross added value of almost €500 billion per year.[19] Given the number of jobs in ocean-related activities, the interlinkage of the ocean and decent work and economic growth is a priority for many States, particularly small island developing States which depend heavily on tourism. However, the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have demonstrated that overreliance on one economic sector, such as tourism, makes

[16] See H.-O. Pörtner and others, eds., *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* (Cambridge, United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press, 2019), available at www.ipcc.ch/srocc/; and IPCC, *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*, Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, available at https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg3/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf.

[17] World Bank, *The Sunken Billions Revisited: Progress and Challenges in Global Marine Fisheries* (Washington, D.C., 2017). Available at https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/24056.

[18] Ibid.

[19] See https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth_en.

countries more vulnerable to external shocks and worsening poverty (Goal 1),[20] while a more diversified economy provides some insulation against external shocks and an increase in skilled opportunities and economic prospects. Thus, most countries' plans for a sustainable ocean economy include multiple economic sectors, with technology and innovation playing an important role. In all cases, protecting the ocean could itself lead to job creation, directly helping to reduce poverty.

18. For example, tackling marine litter and plastic pollution requires investment in improved solid waste management and recycling, innovation and the design of new products. One analysis by Pew Charitable Trusts shows that new systems designed to reduce plastic pollution could lead to 700,000 new jobs in the global South. New innovations in ocean renewable energy and marine biotechnology can also increase the number of skilled jobs and provide for economic gains but they will require initial financing, capacity and technology. Protection of coastal areas can create new employment opportunities in marine protected areas management, tourism and recreation and provide benefits to adjacent fisheries, particularly sustainable small-scale and artisanal fisheries. Yet, one of the trade-offs is that protection of coastal areas may, in the short term, affect local employment and the economic growth of those communities with a high fisheries dependence. Efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing will lead to improved sustainability of fishing in the long term and can create new jobs in monitoring, control and surveillance.

19. *Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 9*. The need to build green climate and disaster-resilient coastal infrastructure for fisheries, tourism and shipping links Goal 9 to Goal 14. Infrastructure can increase productivity and help small island developing States and coastal least developed countries increase economic benefits from the use of marine resources, while a sustainable ocean economy can drive improvements to infrastructure and foster innovation. Upgrading infrastructure and retrofitting industries to make them more resilient and sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency, and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes will contribute to reducing marine pollution and protecting coastal and marine ecosystems. Greening the shipping industry and ports, while preserving the role of maritime transport in supporting future growth, is crucial for ocean and coastal zone protection, with climate change slated to be the main cause of marine ecosystem degradation by 2050.

20. *Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 10*. Increased access to more inclusive markets and to resources for small-scale fishers, together with related capacity-building (target 14.b) and technology transfers related to marine science (target 14.a), will help reduce inequities, contributing to the achievement of Goal 10. Development of sustainable blue economies in small island developing States, least developed countries and coastal African countries can help reduce inequalities between countries, particularly if small-scale fishery actors along the entire value chain participate meaningfully in the process and if trade-offs are taken into account, applying a precautionary approach. Fairness, inclusion and equity in the attainment of Goal 14 can be increased by the sharing of the benefits of marine resource use locally, particularly through supporting participatory resource governance and development processes, local economic and tourism development, capacity-building programmes and hiring practices.[21]

[20] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "The COVID-19 pandemic puts small island developing economies in dire straits", UN/DESA Policy Brief No. 64 (1 May 2020). Available at www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-64-the-covid-19-pandemic-puts-small-island-developing-economies-in-dire-straits/.

[21] Le Blanc, Freire and Vierros, "Mapping the linkages between oceans and other Sustainable Development Goals".

21. *Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 11*. Adaptation strategies such as efforts to improve municipal solid waste management (Goal target 11.6) and sanitation (Goal target 6.2) can reduce the risk of water-related disasters (Goal target 11.5) by keeping the urban drainage system clean, while reducing marine pollution and its impacts such as eutrophication, harmful algal blooms and low oxygen conditions (Goal target 14.1).

22. *Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 12*. Sustainable management of natural resources and the reduction of waste are critical for ending overfishing, for sustainably managing marine and coastal ecosystems and for reducing marine pollution. Marine pollution originates from both land-based and sea-based activities, including domestic, agricultural, commercial, industrial and fishery activities, and takes different forms, including marine debris, plastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste, hazardous substances, ship-sourced pollution and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear. A recent report estimates that from 75 million to 199 million tons of plastic is currently found in the oceans. The amount of plastic waste entering aquatic ecosystems could nearly triple from 9 million–14 million tons per year in 2016 to a projected 23 million–37 million tons per year by 2040.[22] Sustainable consumption and production (Goal 12) along with availability of sanitation for all (Goal 6) and reduction of the adverse environmental impact of cities (Goal target 11.6) will significantly reduce pollution loads in oceans and marine ecosystems. Research shows that a comprehensive circular economy approach could reduce the volume of plastics entering the ocean by over 80 per cent by 2040 and reduce virgin plastic production by 55 per cent.[23] Promoting sustainable consumption and production in the seafood value chain through, for example, science-based quotas, use of selective fishing gear and prevention of by-catch and post-harvest loss also contributes to the conservation of fish stocks, marine life and ecosystems.

Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 13

23. The ocean helps regulate the Earth's climate but also suffers immensely from the impacts of climate change. The ocean-climate nexus is therefore an integral part of climate change action. The ocean acts as a giant sink for greenhouse gases and plays a critical role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Marine and coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass meadows and tidal marshes mitigate climate change impacts through carbon sequestration while providing natural coastal protection. For example, mangroves sequester carbon at rates 3–5 times higher per acre than rates associated with other tropical rainforests[24] while simultaneously increasing biodiversity and essential fish habitats.

24. The ocean-related effects of anthropogenic climate change caused by the emission of greenhouse gases have already been severe. As reported by IPCC, the global ocean has warmed unabated since 1970 and has taken up more than 90 per cent of the excess heat in the climate system, while the absorption of CO_2 emissions has led to ocean acidification. Ocean warming together with deoxygenation and acidification has led to mass coral-bleaching events and shifts in the distribution of marine fish stocks, among other impacts. Furthermore, ocean biogeochemistry has

[22] United Nations Environment Programme, *From Pollution to Solution: A Global Assessment of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution* (Nairobi, 2021). Available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/36963/POLSOL.pdf.

[23] United Nations Environment Programme, "Pollution and circular economy". Available at www.unepfi.org/pollution-and-circular-economy/pollution-and-circular-economy/.

[24] Filippo Ferrario and others, "The effectiveness of coral reefs for coastal hazard risk reduction and adaptation", *Nature Communications* (13 May 2014). Available at www.nature.com/articles/ncomms4794.pdf.

changed, with impacts on the structure of ecosystems, food webs and invasive species and other biotic interactions.[25] Thus, the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 14 is heavily dependent on urgent action towards Goal 13, with the two goals closely interlinked.

25. Reducing carbon emissions and building resilience to the impacts of climate change will assist everyone, and vulnerable ocean-dependent communities in particular, to cope with multiple impacts of climate change. An increasing number of countries are now including ocean issues in their nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, demonstrating a rising awareness of the potential role of coastal and marine habitats in climate change mitigation.

26. Other ocean-related emissions reduction measures include those undertaken by the maritime transport sector. For instance, in 2011, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted the first global legally binding greenhouse gas control regime for an entire industry sector, based on technical measures for new ships and operational emission reduction measures for all ships. Industry innovation is also contributing to emissions reductions through introduction of alternative fuels and other measures.

27. Perhaps less well known are greenhouse gas emissions generated by plastic production. During the pandemic, plastic waste has soared globally, with an estimated 25,000 extra tons of plastic pollution entering the world's already plastic-infested oceans.[26] Research demonstrates that greenhouse gas emissions from the plastic life cycle could be reduced by 25 per cent by 2040.[27]

28. Rising sea levels and changing ocean currents and sea surface temperatures have implications for the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events which impact achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, adequate solutions are needed to guarantee resilient and sustainable ocean communities. While measures such as early warning systems and retrofitting coastal infrastructure are critical in mitigating impact, they must be combined with adequate national capacity, policy, legislation/regulations, institutions, infrastructure and awareness-raising for effective disaster risk reduction and management.

29. *Interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 15*. Ocean and coastal systems are rich reservoirs for biodiversity and are ecologically, economically and culturally connected to biodiversity on land. Halting the loss of biodiversity on land improves the resilience of ecosystems and supports healthy and productive oceans downstream. For example, restoration of watershed areas reduces sedimentation and ultimately improves water quality in coastal areas, which benefits species such as corals and reef-dependent fisheries which are sensitive to high sediment levels. This demonstrates that actions to attain Goal 15 can assist in achieving Goal 14. Conversely, unsustainable land use and associated habitat degradation and land-based sources of pollution negatively impact marine areas. In general, life on land and its interconnections with the ocean are affected by actions taken with respect to multiple Sustainable Development Goals, driving economic development, sustainable consumption and production, industry and infrastructure, sustainable cities and clean water and sanitation. Where those Goals are achieved in such a way as to create

[25] *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, available at www.ipcc.ch/srocc/.

[26] Yiming Peng and others, "Plastic waste release caused by COVID-19 and its fate in the global ocean", *PNAS*, vol. 188, No. 47 (8 November 2021). Available at https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2111530118.

[27] United Nations Environment Programme, "Pollution and circular economy". Available at www.unepfi.org/pollution-and-circular-economy/pollution-and-circular-economy/.

co-benefits for Goals 14 and 15, additional benefits from healthy ecosystems accrue to many other Goals, including Goal 3.

30. Last but not least, Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 underpin the comprehensive implementation of Goal 14. Good governance and strong institutions at local and regional levels are key to turning the potential for synergies into reality. For many if not all Goals, having in place effective governance systems, institutions, partnerships (Goal 17) and intellectual and financial resources is key to an effective, efficient and coherent approach to implementation.[28] Sustainable development of the ocean requires regulation through transparent, inclusive institutions and robust public/private cooperation. Without good governance and solid institutions, regulatory frameworks or laws protecting the ocean cannot be adequately enforced. For example, effective institutions are important for underpinning the success of coastal and marine management and conservation action, including fisheries management and development of marine protected areas. Strong scientific capacities at governmental and research institutions are critical in setting effective policies (Goal 16).

31. Overall, the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14 will assist in achieving many of the other Goals and ultimately the entire 2030 Agenda. A healthy and resilient ocean is key to ensuring fundamental ecosystem services for the hundreds of millions of people in coastal, low-lying coastal and island States but also for those far inland and contributes to global food security and economic security for billions of people each year.

III. Challenges and opportunities in leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals

32. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, there has been considerable progress in analysing interlinkages across Goals and targets in a more integrated and holistic manner. While this is a necessary first step, action must move towards more systematic policy design, implementation and multi-stakeholder collaborations which can translate such understanding into concrete results on the ground. The present section considers some of the challenges and opportunities in leveraging interlinkages between Goal 14 and the other Goals while also identifying some specific areas for targeted action.

33. An integrated approach to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would require the involvement of a number of different ministries, government departments or agencies working on topics as diverse as economic development, poverty reduction, health, environment, public services, gender, climate change and its impacts, agriculture, energy and fisheries. It would also require involvement of a broad range of other stakeholders such as civil society organizations, academia, research institutions, local and coastal communities and the private sector.

34. While priorities may differ from one country to another and also depend on circumstances within individual States, in many instances, the tools, capacity, commitments and inter-institutional communication channels are lacking for prioritizing the most important Sustainable Development Goal interactions which bring about coherent results and for providing the information necessary to evaluate which interventions and policies help or hinder holistic progress towards the Goals.[29] More research and policies may be required to support design of pathways to

[28] Alan Atkisson, “With the SDGs, everything is connected”, *GreenBiz*, 17 May 2017. Available at www.greenbiz.com/article/sdgs-everything-connected.

[29] Nilsson, Griggs and Visbeck, “Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals”.

Sustainable Development Goal implementation, particularly with regard to taking full account of the importance of Goal 14 to the achievement of all other Goals.

35. Measuring progress towards the holistic achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is also challenging. While individual indicators can help in assessing progress towards a specific target, they do not show how that progress, or the lack thereof, impacts other targets and Goals, nor do they demonstrate how short-term gains with respect to one Goal may come at the expense of long-term sustainability for another. More research is required to articulate the causal pathways that demonstrate downstream impacts of actions taken to implement specific targets and Goals and to better understand the results of policy and management actions in complex socio-ecological systems.[30]

36. Collecting, analysing, updating, monitoring and having access to and engaging in timely sharing of ocean data and statistics can also be a challenge for many countries and regions. Similarly, the lack of resources, particularly financial resources, is a key obstacle for implementing Sustainable Development Goal 14, as is the reported frequent lack of priority given to Goal 14 by government leaders and donor organizations.[31] Raising the necessary funding requires a sense of urgency regarding ocean health, resilience and productivity and their importance to achieving the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

37. As recognized in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action", adopted by the 2017 United Nations Ocean Conference, policy coherence is critical for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14. Addressing Goal interlinkages through coherent policy responses brings about opportunities for new partnerships as well as for enhancing available data and approaches for implementation and monitoring. Synergies can be leveraged, inter alia, through enhanced cooperation and multidisciplinary partnerships at all levels and increased data to support monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda, as well as capacity development and coordination mechanisms for the various Goals at the national level.

38. Marine protected areas and other area-based management tools can, depending on their context, goals and implementation, help progress towards a number of Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 2, 8 and 13, by bringing economic, social, livelihoods, climate adaptation and cultural/recreational benefits.[32] Specific gaps and challenges exist for their effective implementation, including financing, management capacity and monitoring of their effective performance. Linkages between Goals 13 and 14 can also be made through nature-based solutions and ecosystems restoration, particularly in mangrove, seagrass, algal (e.g. kelp) and wetland habitats, to reduce disaster risk and foster climate adaptation and further opportunities exist to implement such solutions. The importance of nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development as defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in its resolution 5/5, adopted by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session on 2 March 2022, could be promoted through public awareness campaigns and education, as well as through combating perverse incentives driving degradation and thus creating disaster risk.

[30] Kirsty L. Nash and others, "To achieve a sustainable blue future, progress assessments must include interdependencies between the Sustainable Development Goals", *One Earth*, vol. 2, No. 1 (21 February 2020). Available at www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332220300087.

[31] Ibid.

[32] Le Blanc, Freire and Vierros, "Mapping the linkages between oceans and other Sustainable Development Goals".

39. Addressing interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals can open up new opportunities for Governments to mainstream Goal 14 and ocean health, resilience and productivity into other policy processes, including sustainable social and economic development policies and plans. Opportunities for mainstreaming Goal 14-related actions exist in strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change policies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Opportunities also exist for mainstreaming Goal 14 in national action plans on marine litter and plastic pollution and national plans related to food security, nutrition, human rights and biodiversity (including in national biodiversity strategies and action plans), as well as in national sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks.

40. Environment-related policies and plans should consider the co-benefits across the Sustainable Development Goals in promoting nature-based solutions for the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment and its resources. Opportunities also exist for creating further coherence and synergies with a number of global processes, such as the intergovernmental conference to elaborate the text of 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 post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Assembly and the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, in Stockholm on 2 and 3 June 2022, as well as the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including through the feeding of outputs from the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference.

41. Applying a human rights-based approach provides another key entry point for coherent action, including for decent employment in the ocean sector through implementation of the International Labour Organization Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006. In 2030, the ocean sector is anticipated to provide employment in approximately 40 million full time equivalent jobs under the business-as-usual scenario. The fastest growth in jobs is expected to occur in offshore wind energy, marine aquaculture, fish processing and port activities.[33] This is another area where links between Goals (such as Sustainable Development Goals 14, 5, 8 and 10) can be leveraged and strengthened. Through making such linkages, issues will be addressed centring on achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all at sea, including for women who face discrimination in accessing decent work in ocean-based sectors. In addition, discussions in this regard will provide opportunities for addressing such matters as forced labour and will enable these issues to be brought to the attention of oceans-related entities and authorities and help in raising awareness, inter alia, of fisheries agencies, regional fisheries management organizations, coastguards and foreign ministries.

42. Opportunities in leveraging interlinkages can be also found in cross-sectoral collaboration at the international level. For instance, effective ocean governance is based on strong partnerships which include United Nations organizations and other global and regional bodies that work together to achieve ocean health, resilience and productivity and aim at moving towards a sustainable ocean-based economy. Specific institutional Sustainable Developing Goal strategies and cross-sectoral working groups provide further policy coherence. For example, the IMO Sustainable

[33] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *The Ocean Economy in 2030* (Paris, 2015). Available at www.oecd.org/environment/the-ocean-economy-in-2030-9789264251724-en.htm.

Development Goals strategy specifically calls for strengthening or developing new partnerships for the implementation of the Goals (including strengthening partnerships with other United Nations bodies, industry, non-governmental Organizations and ports, with a focus on Goals 5, 9, 13 and 14). Another example in this regard is the annual regional learning platform of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on policy coherence for disaster risk reduction where building resilience to climate-related disasters has been identified as a key entry point into leveraging synergies among a number of Goals including Goal 14.

43. Multidisciplinary partnerships provide for the joint implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 17 and can ensure that all sectors and stakeholders are included in important decision-making on ocean management and resource use. Partners include Governments, civil society, local communities, the private sector and academic/research organizations as well as international bodies. Multisectoral and multidisciplinary partnerships can be initiated through a review of Goals alignment with existing national and regional legal and policy frameworks and associated planning of priority actions.

44. Opportunities also exist in developing integrated management systems which cover source to sea[34] strengthening and mainstreaming action plans for ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management to balance competing uses of marine resources and address degradation, pollution and resilience and as part of marine spatial planning. Marine spatial planning brings together multiple users of the ocean to make informed and coordinated decisions concerning how to use ocean spaces and resources sustainably. Improved and harmonized monitoring systems and collection of data on land-based marine pollution, including marine litter sources, flows and impacts, will inform evidence-based decision-making, create synergies and foster progress on Sustainable Development Goals 14, 12 and 11.

45. There is also an opportunity to further develop partnerships around ocean science and technology for the simultaneous implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 14, 9 and 17. Ocean science and technology partnerships should endeavour to share data, science and technology broadly so as to increase understanding of ocean ecosystems and ocean-atmosphere interactions and to mitigate likely physical and socioeconomic impacts, with particular attention directed to data-poor regions and towards reducing the digital divide. Development and use of citizen science can assist in filling in the data gaps in poorly researched regions or in monitoring coastal ecosystems. Citizen science has been shown to contribute to filling knowledge gaps through, for example, collection of ocean data by seafarers in remote areas,[35] volunteer monitoring and collection of marine plastics on beaches[36] and monitoring of coral[37] and seagrass areas.[38] In addition, progress is being made in developing methodologies for Goal 14 indicators that use innovative and non-traditional data sources, such as traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, which contribute to the increased knowledge of coastal and marine ecosystems and species and can support improved coastal and ocean management. Technology and

[34] The term “source to sea” refers to understanding the connection of ecosystems and the interconnectedness of lakes, rivers and the ocean.

[35] Secchi Disk Seafarers and others, “Seafarer citizen scientist ocean transparency data as a resource for phytoplankton and climate research”, *PLOS ONE*, vol. 12, No. 12 (6 December 2017), e0186092. Available at https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0186092.

[36] See, for example (among many other organizations), Ocean Legacy Foundation, “Cleanup expeditions”. Available at https://oceanlegacy.ca/cleanup-expeditions/.

[37] See www.reefcheck.org/.

[38] See, for example, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, “Got seagrass? A citizen science survey of NY seagrass – introduction to seagrass citizen science” (and other sources). Available at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/112412.html.

technological innovation will continue to further interlinkages between Goal 14 and the other Goals by developing new solutions for ocean observation and management. Digital technology applications and solutions are promising tools in the context of supporting informed decision-making and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and forced labour on fishing vessels.

46. Space applications are valuable for monitoring fisheries, ocean characteristics coastlines and pollution. In this respect, the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)[39] includes several proposed actions encouraging support for monitoring and sharing information on ocean characteristics. Such applications are particularly important for countries such as small island developing States, the size of whose exclusive economic zones often far exceeds their total terrestrial space. There are challenges in accessing these data, however, which include the availability of skilled spatial experts to undertake analysis; the resolution of satellite data, which may sometimes be too coarse for effectively observing some ocean characteristics; and the lack of availability of some data, such as radar data, in circumstances in which satellites are not monitoring ocean areas.

47. Strengthening the science-policy interface is critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14. Actions taken towards achieving ocean health, resilience and productivity rely on a scientific understanding of policy synergies and trade-offs between Goal 14 and other Goals and with other related international policy instruments. Both policy action and measurement of progress across all Goals can be facilitated through efforts to enhance the availability and quality of data, with further support and resources required in this area.

IV. Existing partnerships

48. Recognizing the interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals, various partnerships foster synergistic efforts to achieve interacting goals and targets through an integrated approach. The list of partnerships described below is not meant to be exhaustive. The aim is to highlight partnerships that support a variety of objectives which can help in achieving the implementation of Goal 14.

49. Multi-stakeholder partnerships established to leverage synergies are in place. These include the North Sea Energy shared innovation programme in the Netherlands, which is creating a coalition of companies and research organizations to study and exploit synergies between offshore renewable and fossil-based energy activities. Furthermore, partnerships between industries and other entities can develop and share best practices, as illustrated, for example, through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. Launched at the 2019 Climate Action Summit, CDRI is a multi-country and multi-stakeholder coalition whose aim is to promote knowledge exchange and provide technical support to countries on implementing disaster and climate-resilient infrastructure. As the world becomes increasingly urbanized, it is critical to ensure that new investments, including for coastal cities, are climate and disaster risk-informed and do not generate new risks or trade-offs with the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

50. Multisectoral partnerships that provide policy guidance and technical support to Member States through intergovernmental processes are equally important. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities was created as a unique intergovernmental mechanism to

[39] See www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/3rdMC-SASD-Plan-of-Action.pdf.

address land-based pollution. Hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the purpose of the Global Programme of Action is to protect and preserve the marine environment from land-based pollution, such as sewage, physical alterations and the destruction of habitat, nutrients, sediment mobilization, persistent organic pollutants, oils, litter, heavy metals and radioactive substances. The Programme offers technical and policy guidance, through the following multisectoral partnerships concluded under its umbrella: Global Partnership on Nutrient Management, Global Partnership on Marine Litter and Global Wastewater Initiative.

51. The Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform) is a multi-stakeholder initiative with key partners from the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and research institutions which helps freshwater, coastal and marine experts contribute to global knowledge generation on source-to-sea interconnections, connect and engage in collaborative projects, promote best practices and take collaborative action to improve the management of land, water, coastal and marine linkages.

52. The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development has provided opportunities for the formation of new partnerships. For example, ESCAP developed a regional Decade programme to support the implementation of the Decade in the Asia-Pacific region. In collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), ESCAP is supporting the Environment Deputies Meeting and Climate Sustainability Working Group in facilitating negotiations focusing on promoting ocean-based solutions to climate change through enhanced cooperation in science, research and innovation.

53. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UNEP/MAP (Mediterranean Action Plan) and the Economic Commission for Europe will develop a joint project on enhanced regional knowledge and experience sharing for waste reduction in the Mediterranean. The objective of the project is to undertake a regional assessment of the effectiveness of the high-tech and low-tech solutions that have been implemented in selected countries of the Mediterranean region, with a view to their widespread utilization in waste reduction solutions and efforts. The expected result is enhanced technical capacities of decision makers and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region to achieve waste reduction and strengthened dialogue among the regions and countries that border the Mediterranean basin with the aim of progressing towards a more circular economy while contributing to poverty eradication, particularly among women and marginalized communities.

54. UNEP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) have partnered in various ocean-related activities and projects, including the Go Blue Project, funded by the European Union, which aims towards advancing the blue economy agenda across Kenya’s coastal region. Another example in this regard is an ongoing collaboration through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and Waste Wise Cities on city waste assessment, using the Waste Wise Cities Tool, a guide to assessing a city’s municipal solid waste management performance through monitoring Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.6.1, in more than 50 cities. This provides key data for Sustainable Development Goals 14, 11 and 12 which inform UNEP national source inventories of marine litter and plastic pollution for development of national action plans.

55. UNEP, through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, is also developing a Global Partnership digital platform, an online data hub and one-stop shop, which aims towards bringing together all stakeholders whose work focuses on marine litter and plastic pollution. The platform, where partners are able to work together to create and

advance solutions to pressing global issues, provides a unique opportunity to share knowledge and experience.

56. UN-Habitat has established the Waste Wise Partnership with the ambition of bringing partners together to deliver aligned products and projects in order to raise awareness, enhance coordination and cooperation among relevant organizations, build capacities and provide tools and integrated support to cities and countries in establishing sustainable municipal solid waste management, preventing plastic leakages and developing a circular economy, which will assist in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 by reducing ocean pollution, including marine litter, from land-based sources. The International Seabed Authority together with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation have, since 2018, been implementing the Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth project, initially a voluntary commitment registered at the 2017 United Nations Ocean Conference. The project aims towards ensuring that the necessary governance structures and mechanisms required are in place in three Pacific small island developing States (Kiribati, Nauru and Tonga) and one Pacific territory (the Cook Islands) with respect to sponsoring activities in the international seabed area in order to assist those States and territory in complying with their national and international obligations as seabed activities progress. In addition, in partnership with a range of stakeholders from academia, Governments, civil society and industry, the Authority is implementing the Women in Deep-Sea Research project to support participation and leadership of women from least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in deep sea science and technology.

57. To facilitate partnerships towards capacity development, IMO was the first United Nations specialized agency to institutionalize its Technical Cooperation Committee, a body that continues to oversee IMO capacity-building programme and projects. The Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme, a framework of regional and global programmes, helps developing countries implement international maritime rules and standards.

58. ESCAP is working with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) through its Pacific Island Advisory Group and GEO Blue Planet initiatives to bring to Governments technical space application solutions for addressing ocean resources. Working groups have been established to focus on marine debris, coral reefs, fisheries, oil spills, sargassum and several other areas.

59. In January 2020, the World Tourism Organization and UNEP, in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, launched the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative to address plastic pollution and support tourism stakeholders in shifting towards a circular economy for plastics. The structure of the initiative is underpinned by a common vision and commitments to the elimination of problematic and unnecessary plastics; innovation to ensure that the plastics that do remain in use are reusable, recyclable or compostable; and circulation to keep plastics in the value chain and out of the environment.

60. Cross-sectoral international cooperation helps to facilitate synergies between Sustainable Development Goals and their targets. For instance, the Ship Recycling Transparency Initiative is an online platform facilitating synergies between Goals 14, 12 and 13 in which shipowners share information on their approaches to ship recycling based on predefined disclosure criteria developed jointly by key industry stakeholders. Cargo owners and investors access this information from different companies to assist with decision-making regarding the companies with which they chose to do business.

61. The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network is a community of practice that strengthens understanding of marine biodiversity and coordinates monitoring of associated changes over time through scientific observations, thereby facilitating ecosystem conservation, sustainability and good management practices. The Network, which is engaged in linking existing national and international research and monitoring efforts, works with the international community to promote the operational collection of biodiversity observations.

V. Possible areas for new partnerships

62. It is important for new partnerships to be created and scaled up to address interactions and create synergies in the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals. Submissions highlighted the following areas as key for possible new partnerships.

63. Regarding the climate-biodiversity-ocean nexus, there is a need to build and accelerate momentum around the nexus in international processes, such as the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference. The Ocean Conference in particular provides a key opportunity to further articulate partnerships that address the interlinkages between the ocean and climate from a sustainable development perspective. Momentum is also required to build socially inclusive and participatory processes to scale up the application of nature-based solutions, such as the protection and restoration of blue carbon habitats and the establishment of marine protected areas and locally managed marine areas which build resilience and can be adapted to changing ocean conditions.

64. As regards marine plastic pollution, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 on ending plastic pollution and developing in that regard an international legally binding instrument by 2024, which was adopted by the Assembly on 2 March 2022, will provide opportunities for multiple actors and stakeholders to come together in support of both the instrument's development and its implementation.

65. Collecting, sharing and updating ocean data as well as accessing it for use in decision-making and monitoring can contribute towards Sustainable Development Goals 14, 9 and 10. This remains a high priority for most countries. Partnerships, for example, between the Statistical Commission and regional statistical committees and between statistical entities within the United Nations system and those at the forefront of policymaking nationally and regionally, can together mobilize financial resources and data to better inform implementation at regional, national and local levels.

66. Regular national dialogue among government departments and stakeholders regarding how policies and actions would interact to achieve all – or several – of the Sustainable Development Goals will help create better policies. Some countries have established national working groups or similar mechanisms for cross-sectoral dialogue on the Goals. These working groups include members of different government departments who are implementing policies, inter alia, on climate change, sustainable economic development, oceans, fisheries, gender, poverty reduction and human health as well as relevant stakeholders including civil society and the private sector. Together, working group members can assess synergies and trade-offs in order to avert unnecessary negative consequences such as avoidable impacts on marine ecosystems stemming from economic development. In addition, efforts to increase ocean literacy can help policymakers better understand the interlinkages between ocean health, resilience, productivity and opportunity.

67. Technology will continue to further interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the other Goals, including through the transfer of appropriate technologies together with capacity-building and financing as envisaged in Goal targets 17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.9. For example, technologies for jointly reducing ocean waste and promoting sustainable fisheries management might include biodegradable and trackable fishing nets and gear which can be used for eradication of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear. In addition, providing educational opportunities for youth and women in science, technology and innovation will help build the next generation of scientists and address gender equality, thereby influencing Goal targets 5.b and 8.6.

68. Long-term scientific research collaborations featuring North-South and South-South capacity-building can help enhance capacity of all stakeholders, including landlocked developing countries, to effectively participate in all fields of marine science and technology, in both national and international marine areas. Global, regional and subregional cooperation to promote comprehensive ocean governance is also of primary importance for achieving not only Sustainable Development Goal 14 but other Goals as well.

VI. Conclusions

69. To ensure the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14, it is imperative to identify in a systemic manner the sectors and areas in which synergies should be fully leveraged. Additionally, scientific knowledge and evidence-based policy options must be used to better analyse the trade-offs between Goal 14 and targets of other Goals. Financial and technological resources must be harnessed through multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships to better address the challenges in leveraging the interlinkages between Goal 14 and other Goals.

70. Leveraging synergies while avoiding trade-offs is a considerable challenge, yet it also offers an opportunity to advance the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals through the integrated solutions called for by Member States. Partnerships have been established among Member States, entities of the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector and other global and regional intergovernmental organizations to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration, policy coherence and inter-agency coordination at various levels. However, many gaps remain to be addressed. Further systematic analysis, education and awareness-raising on the interlinkages among the Goals are needed together with data for monitoring and reporting on progress and potential trade-offs. Science, technology, and innovation together with institutional and legal frameworks for good governance will assist in addressing multiple goals through an integrated approach.

VII. Guiding questions

71. The following guiding questions may be used to inform the dialogue:

(a) How can national policies, strategies and legal frameworks effectively address the synergies between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals and potential trade-offs?

(b) How can intergovernmental processes and international organizations and institutions enhance coherence and synergies in actions to promote ocean conservation and management across various Sustainable Development Goals, for example between Goals 14 and 2 or between Goals 14, 8 and 9?

(c) What action, in terms of leveraging synergies with other Sustainable Development Goals, is required to ensure continued and scaled-up implementation of Goal 14 targets which were set to mature in 2020?

(d) How can science, technology and innovation be used and developed to identify critical areas for maximizing Sustainable Development Goal synergies and how can they be best translated into or support policies?

(e) How can science be used to monitor implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in such a way as to enhance transparency?

(f) How can benefit be derived from sustainable ocean-based economies considering the linkages with other Sustainable Development Goals?

(g) How can there be a building back better from the pandemic, setting a blue-green recovery path, in the light of the interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals?