

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Garen Nazarian, Head of the delegation of Armenia

at 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

June 26- July 1, 2022, Lisbon

Honorable [Co-presidents,]

At the outset, let me congratulate you on behalf of the Armenian delegation on your election as presidents of this conference and assure you of the full support of our delegation.

I would also like to join the previous speakers in thanking the Portuguese Government for hosting this important conference in Lisbon.

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

The Ocean Conference is a remarkable milestone for the United Nations and the international community as a whole that has been advocating for sustainable use of the oceans and marine resources as a key goal of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

The past few years have not been forgiving for our joint efforts aimed at realizing the 2030 Agenda. The continuing pandemic and ongoing conflicts have crippled world economies and overstrained the healthcare systems throughout the globe.

A number of SDG areas took a colossal hit and would require redoubled efforts to register the foreseen outcomes by 2030.

Despite the hardships caused by the pandemic and the 44-day war in Nagorno-Karabakh, the government of Armenia continued to take steps towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The government has introduced the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050, built around 16 mega-goals of long-term socio-economic, educational, and human development objectives for the next 30-year period.

The goals of this strategy are closely linked with those of the Sustainable Development Agenda, effectively synchronizing them with Armenia's national priorities and reform agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We want to stress the overarching and fundamental role played by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the legal framework within which international cooperation should be strengthened and further developed.

As a land-locked developing country, Armenia attaches particular importance to Part 10 of the Convention, which provides land-locked states right of access to and from the sea and freedom of transit. Armenia is committed to the integrity and universality of the UNCLOS.

Whether we live on the coast, or on a landlocked mountaintop, oceans and seas impact our lives and we all are connected to them through rivers, lakes, and streams. We stress the need to ensure that ecosystems essential for life on Earth continue to flourish and remain resilient.

Armenia reiterates its strong support for good governance, an enabling environment, sustainable land- and marine-based human activities, and adequate measures that will be required to reduce the negative impacts on our environment.

We believe that projects and measures should be designed and implemented in an integrated, cross-sectoral, and cross-scale manner, in line with the ecosystem approach and involving all stakeholders.

We also emphasize the need in establishing effective partnerships and networking with the private sector as well aimed at more public engagement that will help influence long-term change in policy and practice. In this context, Armenia welcomes the project on communication campaign, launched by UNESCO and advocated by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation UK Branch and its Head Office in Lisbon in creating an important platform for the new generation of change-makers.

It is an example of effective tools that are being used to improve cooperation among the UN, its member states, and civil society partners.

And lastly, [Co-Presidents,]

Armenia welcomes and supports the ambitious approach put forward in the Declaration and we wish this conference every success.

Thank you.