

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Morteza DamanPak Jami**  
**Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Portugal**  
**at the Second United Nations Ocean Conference**  
**27 June - 1 July 2022, Lisbon – Portugal**

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Honorable Delegates,**

**Mr. President,**

It gives me great pleasure to address the Second United Nations Ocean Conference. I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, for presiding over the deliberations and the UN Secretariat for organizing this important Conference. I should also express our gratitude to the governments of Portugal and Kenya for co-hosting this important event.

This Conference indicates our common objective for scaling up joint action for the conservation of oceans based on science and innovation and through stocktaking, and partnership. The science-based actions and innovations are key to finding solutions and overcoming challenges in preserving oceans' environment, resources, and ecosystem. However, greater efforts are needed to increase marine scientific research activities and to promote capacity-building and transfer of marine technologies. Lack of capacity and the required knowledge and technology would hinder a better understanding of the properties of the sea and the marine environment. Hence, building the required capacity in developing states and transferring marine technologies are essential.

To effectively address the environmental challenges of the oceans, the root causes of the problem have to be dealt with. For many decades, the over-exploitation of resources and fish stocks, pollution of oceans by extensive maritime emissions including by military fleets, and discharge of untreated waste and hazardous substances have significantly damaged and destroyed the environment and ecosystem of the oceans and seas. Naturally, States with a higher role in creating this situation should accept more responsibility to rectify it and to deliver for reviving oceans and the marine environment.

Unfortunately, the military presence of foreign forces in international and regional waters, including the Persian Gulf, constitutes a serious threat to the sustainability of these waters and has caused marine pollution and environmental degradation. This harmful presence together with illegal and inhuman unilateral coercive measures has undermined the possible actions required for tackling the environmental and climate change challenges in the Persian Gulf region.

**Mr. President,**

The conservation of oceans is a global priority and universal common responsibility. Conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources are addressed by a range of international as well as regional and sub-regional instruments and frameworks. Regional collaboration mechanisms enjoy a special advantage for knowledge-sharing, exchange of best practices and actions to reduce and control marine pollution, and preserve resources, biodiversity, and species. With such understanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed a regional mechanism that includes the exchange of information, data, and research sharing as well as consolidated actions to protect the ecosystem, environment, resources, and biodiversity of the Persian Gulf region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran with a 5800 km coastline and adjacent to the strategic waterways; namely the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Gulf of Oman, prioritizes marine activities based on science, technology, and research in those waterways. Iran has already established a UNESCO Category 2 Regional Education and Research Center on Oceanography for West Asia to build capacity in the region. The Center provides specialized Oceanographic training courses for interested countries in the region. Iran is ready to establish a similar framework for the exchange of information and scientific cooperation with the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea neighboring countries.

**Mr. President,**

My country is an active member of various international conventions and instruments which aim to conserve oceans. In line with the commitments of Iran concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine diversity, my government has actively participated in the negotiations 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 biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. In the same vein, Iran is actively participating in the UNEP intergovernmental negotiations to develop an international instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment. However, such constructive and active engagement should not be construed as a change in the legal position of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the UNCLOS.

Before concluding, I wish to reiterate that my delegation will spare no effort to support the deliberations of this Conference aiming at action-oriented policies to preserve and protect the ecosystem of our oceans.

**I thank you very much**