

Ireland – ID 5 Statement

Intervention (3 minutes)

- Prime Minister Støre, Prime Minister Correia e Silva, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.
- For those of us who come from island States or coastal or maritime regions, there is often a romantic connotation attached to our Oceans - the ability to look out across a large body of water that holds so much ecological wealth. This wealth below the surface, that is invisible to those of us on land holds the key to many of the planet's ecosystems and hence our prosperity.
- Stories about epic voyages, mythical creatures and treasures add to this mystery and romanticism. However, there is nothing romantic about the current trajectory of climate change, and its impact on coastal communities, particularly in the most vulnerable parts of the world.
- Sea-level rise, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss and pollution pose significant challenges to us all, and in some cases, threaten the continued existence of low lying islands.
- As a fellow island state, ocean issues and the needs of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed States are a key focus for Ireland. This week, as part of Ireland's attendance at the UN Ocean Conference, we have announced a package of almost €10 million in funding that will directly support ocean initiatives in areas where rising sea levels, salination of drinking water, coastal erosion and loss of coastal livelihoods pose immeasurable threats.

- At the core of all of these initiatives is a recognition that the consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss and polluted oceans are interlinked and will have disastrous impacts on the vulnerable populations who have done the least to cause these problems.
- The initiatives we are funding include collaborating with other donors through the Blue Action Fund to support the establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas in LDCs and SIDS; support for the World Bank through the PROBLUE Trust Fund; support for private-sector innovators and start-ups in the sustainable blue economy space in Pacific SIDS through Climate KIC; and research partnerships between Universities in Ireland and SIDS to build on the body of scientific knowledge on marine and genetic resources.
- The term ‘Sustainable Blue Economy’ has become commonplace in much of our discourse. This of course indicates that there is currently an un-Sustainable Blue Economy.
- Understanding the huge influence of the oceans on current and future economic growth in SIDS and coastal LDCs, means that we can no longer promote or participate in an un-sustainable blue economy – and as developed countries, we must do everything in our capacity to ensure that the capability to make this transition is provided to all.

