

New Zealand Intervention

To have been delivered by Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Interactive dialogue 2: Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries

Thank you to the co-chairs of this dialogue, the Governments of Cabo Verde and Norway.

Aotearoa New Zealand sits in the Pacific, a region where ocean ecosystems are key to food and economic security, especially for our small island neighbours..

For example, the offshore tuna sector contributes US\$1.7 billion annually to Pacific economies and generates nearly 25,000 jobs. Coastal fisheries are the primary or secondary source of income for up to 50 percent of households in the Pacific.

It is important that the potential of the ocean economy is seen within the broader Blue Pacific framework. The *Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Ocean Statement 2021* recognises the enormous potential of the ocean to meet sustainable development needs, but only if our ocean is restored and maintained to be healthy and productive.

Sustainable management of resources requires work at multiple levels. Effective coastal fisheries management, for example, must include community-level engagement.

Civil society also has a key role to play.

For the Pacific, regional agencies such as the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency, the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) help to ensure Pacific-owned solutions to the challenges of today.

New Zealand is pleased to be supporting SPC to better understand and respond to climate-driven tuna redistribution. By 2050, the movement of tuna stocks eastwards, increasingly into international waters, could lead to a US\$90 million per annum drop in government revenue across the region. This highlights both the importance of high-quality science to informing management of the ocean economy, and the importance of trade disciplines under the WTO against subsidies for IUU fishing in international as well as territorial waters.

New Zealand sees the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as a key opportunity to identify priorities for research and to ensure adequate funding to achieve them. We are pleased to be engaged in work under the Decade across the Pacific region. That work values the contribution of the knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to science based decision-making.

Thank you.