G77 Draft Statement for Interactive Dialogue 7, Thursday, 30 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: "Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology"

Excellencies,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of G77 and China.

2. With over over 3 billion people heavily reliant on marine ecosystems for food and livelihoods, there is no doubt that a healthy ocean is fundamental for achieving many other Sustainable Development Goals.

3. With sea levels rising, coastal erosion worsening, enhanced marine pollution, and the ocean becoming warmer and more acidic, there is no doubt that marine science has assumed great importance in helping to understand, predict and respond to natural and anthropogenic events and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas.

4. Scientific knowledge regarding the ocean's role in energy, carbon and water cycles as well as of the impact of multiple natural and human-induced climate change and other anthropogenic activities on marine ecosystems, fisheries and wildlife is essential if we are to achieve the targets of SDG 14.

5. Yet, the vast disparities in terms of financial, technological and human resources, in particular between developed and developing countries, hinder progress towards achieving many targets of SDG 14, including target 14.a.

6. States that have a pressing need for rigorous and relevant ocean science often have the least scientific capacity or the least access to ocean science and technology.

7. The Group would highlight the following priorities in this regards:

- Recognising the importance of embracing indigenous and local knowledge as a complementary and invaluable source of data and knowledge and ensuring that scientific knowledge generated is relevant to local, national and global priorities.
- Investing in people and their institutions so that they can build infrastructure and long-term support networks with better access to data, tools and technologies.
- Transfer of marine technology on preferential terms to developing countries to contribute to the protection of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. This includes activities that increase not only access to facilities and equipment, but also expertise, skills and knowledge that enhance research capacity.
- Focused efforts for capacity development regarding marine science and research, especially for scientists from the most vulnerable countries, in particular in small island developing States and least developed countries, including through the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
- Enhancing cooperation at the global, regional, sub-regional, national and local levels in order to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration, knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices within marine scientific research, including through south-south & triangular cooperation

- Supporting developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technology, including through strengthening science, technology and innovation infrastructure, domestic innovation capabilities, absorptive capacities and the capacity of national statistical systems, in particular in the most vulnerable countries.
- Enhanced marine scientific research cooperation to inform and support decision-making, to promote knowledge hubs and networks to enhance the sharing of scientific data, best practices and know-how, enhance capacity-building at all levels.

8. The Group believes that it is only through a revitalised global partnership, aimed at enhancing research capacity and facilitating the transfer of technology to the most vulnerable countries, that the international community can achieve all the targets of SDG 14.