

**Draft Statement on Behalf of G77 and China for Interactive Dialogue
3, Tuesday, 28 June, from 3 to 6 p.m.: “Managing, protecting,
conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems”**

Excellencies,

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

2. The Group believes that healthy, resilient marine and coastal ecosystems are fundamental to sustainable development. They are a source of food, energy, minerals and transport. The ocean economy will be worth an estimated \$3 trillion annually by 2030, approximately 5 per cent of global gross domestic product.

3. The fundamental importance of managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems cannot be overstated. Allow me to illustrate:

- It impacts sectors that are critical to the resilience of developing countries include the coastal tourism sector, and the marine fisheries sector
- The commodities produced in these sectors have a total first sale value estimated at \$401 billion.
- Coastal and open ocean ecosystems play an important role in climate regulation, absorbing excess heat caused by global warming and carbon emissions.
- Marine fisheries directly or indirectly employ over 200 million people.

4. Yet, regrettably, we have been unable to achieve targets 14.2 and 14.5 of SDG 14. It is undoubtedly time for the International Community to recalibrate its approach in order to accelerate efforts to achieve these targets. The group would highlight the following pre-requisites:

- First, ecosystem restoration approaches must be scaled up. This would require enhanced investments,; long-term scientific research; and developing new financial mechanisms. An internationally coordinated effort would be required, especially to support vulnerable countries.
- Second, enhancing science-based and innovative actions, including through international cooperation and partnerships in line with the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based approaches.
- Third, 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 and to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technology.

- Fourth, explore, develop and promote sustainable and innovative financing solutions to drive the transformation to sustainable ocean-based economies.
- Fifth, combatting the impact of climate change on marine and coastal eco-systems, including through supporting climate resilient development across multiple governance levels.

5. The Group would highlight that upcoming processes, including the adoption of the post-2020 Global Bio-Diversity Framework, the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, the invitation to the Chair of the Subsidiary Body of Technological Advice to convene an Annual Ocean Dialogue, provide a key opportunity to raise ambition and accelerate actions for the management, protection, conservation and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems.

6. However, previous experiences shows that ambition only is not enough. There is a dire need to match ambition with corresponding means of implementation. The Group emphasises the importance of a revitalised global partnership aimed at providing developing countries with adequate financing, capacity building and technology transfer. Existing commitments, including those under the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC and the Glasgow Climate Pact, must be urgently fulfilled if we are to achieve our goals.
