

**Statement by the head of the delegation  
of the Russian Federation at the plenary of the UN Water Conference**

*(Lisbon, Portugal, June 27 – 1 July 2022)*

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

I thank the organizers of this event and the UN Secretary-General for the efforts in advancing the ocean agenda.

The Russian Federation is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the UN Sustainable Development Goals in a comprehensive manner.

Rational management of water resources is paramount for sustainable development and is essential to overcoming global challenges of the present day. We support the initiative of Tajikistan regarding the new International Decade of Action “Water for Sustainable Development” for 2018-2028.

We must elaborate new conceptual approaches, in particular by examining the interconnections between management of coastal ecosystems and sustainable economic development, while recognizing that improvement of the quality of the environment is inextricably linked to social and economic development.

To implement such a broad agenda we must involve all stakeholders and combine the efforts of governments, private sector, academia and civil society.

A very pressing problem is one of marine plastic pollution, which has taken on a global character. We believe that addressing this matter now is timely and welcome the continuation of the dialogue for the prevention of ocean plastic pollution and the development of the draft of a legally binding agreement on this issue under the UN auspices. We intend to actively participate in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on this matter.

The Russian Federation addresses prevention of marine plastic pollution in a comprehensive manner. We have put in place the system of enhanced producer responsibility, which enables us to digitally track plastic throughout its lifecycle, from its production to its end use. With this system, we can drastically decrease the amount of waste that could potentially end up in oceans. In particular, we aim to achieve 100% of garbage sorting and to halve the amount of garbage disposal by 2030.

It is with that goal in mind that the Russian Government works to prohibit the production of one-time non-degradable plastic goods in the near future.

Our country gives special attention to science and marine research. This is because it is impossible to make accurate quantitative estimates of observed climate change without knowing of the changes happening in the World Ocean. The World Ocean and the seas are not as well studied as the atmosphere, and modelling the ocean is not nearly as developed as modelling the atmosphere. Many processes, especially those occurring in the polar seas, are still rather poorly understood. Moreover, they can change as the global and the regional climate changes.

In this connection, countries should give more attention to developing their marine research potential, including by building or modernizing specialized research vessels. As an example of that we have the specialized research vessel “North Pole”, recently launched in the Russian waters. This vessel is specifically designed and equipped for research in polar regions of the World Ocean, foremost the Arctic.

The 2020s are proclaimed as the Decade of Science and Technology in Russia, which involves large scale educational campaigns as well as fundamental research. Under the State Priority Project “Monitoring of climate-active substances” and the Federal Science and Technology Program for environmental development and climate change, the Government will allocate an unprecedented amount of finance to marine research, new tools for monitoring and modelling the ocean as well as analysis of the impact of climate change on the marine environment. The data will be open, as is in line with the spirit of this Conference.

The Russian Government has developed new mechanisms to enhance the financing of the “blue economy”. Our program of climate projects will enable us to attract additional private resources to enhance the absorptive capacity of the ocean and improve the state of marine ecosystems. We are also developing the network of so-called “carbon polygons” to better monitor carbon fluxes, including at sea. In order to more fully take into consideration the role of oceans in mitigating climate change we suggest that these fluxes be accounted for in more detail in countries’ NDCs.

In the context of climate change impacts on the marine environment, the Russian Government intends to integrate these issues into its national decarbonization strategy. At the end of 2022, we intend to launch the second period of implementation of the National Adaptation Plan, where particular attention will be paid to adapting coastal communities to climate change. This will ensure a better quality of life for the population under the changing climate.

Thank you for your attention.