

Thank you for giving us the floor Madam Chair: A few remarks on MSP and MoS:

1. Marine Spatial Planning - MSP - is a policy that enables a multisectoral ecosystem-based management, usually adopted at national level.

2. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO has worked on ecosystem-based MSP since 2006, when we started to produce international guidance as well as implement capacity building activities in order to support Member States to develop such policy. In 2017, we joined forces with the European Commission and adopted a roadmap to promote MSP globally. This MSProadmap, an Ocean Commitment, was co-funded by the European Commission, supported by the governments of the Netherlands and Sweden

3. The target 14.2 of the SDG14 aimed to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems by 2020. The MSProadmap was set up to contribute to that, but we are aware that, despite of the ongoing progress, we have not achieved this target yet.

4. Therefore, the IOC-UNESCO and the European Commission are developing a new Ocean Commitment on an updated MSP roadmap, whose actions will be implemented by a new project from 2023.

5. Another joint Ocean Commitment will be launched tomorrow during a side event: the *'MSP Challenge/MSPglobal training network on Marine Spatial Planning'*. The Government of the Netherlands, IOC-UNESCO, the European Commission and 12 partner institutions are committed to support multilingual training on MSP in all UN languages + Portuguese.

6. *Moreover, IOC-UNESCO is also supporting ecosystem-based MSP at the level of Large Marine Ecosystems through the 'International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN)'*.

7. *Furthermore, I would like to also mention the technical support on MSP from IOC-UNESCO to the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy through the Ocean Action 2030 coalition. MSP is a key tool for those members committed to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean areas under their national jurisdictions by 2025.*

8. In addition IOC is at the forefront when it comes to the protection, conservation and restoration of Blue Carbon Ecosystems. *A Nature based solution for climate change in coastal areas*. Over the past ten years IOC and partners are working towards increasing the scientific capacity to measure and manage Mangroves, Seagrasses and Saltmarshes.
9. The Blue Carbon Initiative co-organized by IOC, CI and IUCN, is a global program focused on mitigating climate change through the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems so that they sequester and store carbon.
10. *Experts estimate that as much as 1.02 billion tons of carbon dioxide are being released annually from degraded coastal ecosystems, which is equivalent to 19% of emissions from tropical deforestation globally, contributing to climate change.*
11. Another IOC partnership in this regard is the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, in which IOC is part of the coordinator team. This is a global network of 50 governments, NGO's ,IGO's and research institutions. It will be an open forum for partners to connect, share and collaborate to build solutions, take actions, and benefit from the experience and expertise of the global community.
12. *Last but not least I am happy to announce that a new Blue Carbon Ocean Decade programme under the leadership of the Scottish Blue Carbon Forum was just endorsed and IOC looks forward to working together to define the agenda for blue carbon research over the next ten years.*
13. Working on these different but complementary fronts, IOC-UNESCO aims to keep fostering marine spatial plans anchored in the ecosystem-based management paradigm, the protection and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems as well as addressing the complexity of Multiple Ocean Stressors.