Statement by the Regular Process for Interactive Dialogue 6: Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology.

Distinguished delegates, as we start determining the focus of the next assessment(s) of the third cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, I speak to you today as a member of the Group of Experts, a group that leads the coordination and delivery of the World Ocean Assessments.

The Regular Process is the only global mechanism, accountable to the United Nations General Assembly, that regularly reviews the environmental, economic and social aspects of the world's ocean and thereby provides the only comprehensive view of the current state of the marine environment and its foreseeable future in the near term. The major findings of the first two UN World Ocean Assessments produced by the Regular Process identify that as human populations continue to grow, human use of the marine environment continues to unsustainably expand, with almost all components of the ocean impacted by climate change and human use.

The comprehensive review undertaken by the Regular Process also identifies key knowledge and capacity gaps that are limiting the delivery of observations, information dissemination, and implementation of effective responses to changes and management of human activities to ensure sustainable practices that support a healthy marine environment and the ongoing delivery of services the marine environment provides to humans.

The World Ocean Assessments produced by the Regular Process, recognise that while progress has been made, challenges remain at national, regional and global levels in recognising the role of science in decision making, particularly in supporting actions that ensure future sustainability. The lack of a strong and effective science-policy interface results in inadequate communication of marine scientific research to decision makers, inadequate delivery of products directly able to be utilised by policy makers and the society at large and in association, a lack of full integration of scientific knowledge into decision making. Without widespread recognition of the role of the ocean in supporting human wellbeing and livelihoods, the need for science-informed decision making, and equitable sharing of knowledge, support for sustained research efforts will continue to be inadequate.

The third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025) has set out the following priorities : (i) support for and interaction with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes, including through the delivery of brief, synoptic documents that highlight policy-relevant information from the second World Ocean Assessment, so as to further bridge the science-policy divide; (ii) assessment(s) of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects to deliver comprehensive information on the marine environment relevant to decision making; and (iii) delivery of a capacity-building programme to develop the capacities of States in strengthening the ocean science-policy interface at the national, regional and global levels.

The Regular Process is beginning a series of regional workshops in July that will occur through to the end of 2022 that have the aim of identifying key priorities for assessment(s) to be conducted during the third cycle and building capacity on ocean governance and the science policy interface. Participation is key in this process, as we strive to have a balanced array of voices across geographic regions, disciplines and perspectives. Therefore, we strongly encourage widespread engagement including by qualified female and early career candidates to apply to participate in the workshops and contribute to the development of the next assessment(s) of the third cycle.

We extend this invitation to all delegates to ensure that the World Ocean Assessment(s) produced under the third cycle deliver key information needed for decision making, support broad dissemination of scientific knowledge and that the Regular Process continues to contribute to global action in strengthening the science-policy interface in supporting delivery of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its associated targets, and contributes to achieving the other goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.