

General statement by the Regular Process to the Plenary - United Nations Ocean Conference

Distinguished Delegates, as we start determining the focus of the assessments 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. Its purpose is to contribute to the strengthening of the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment, in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking.

The major findings of the second World Ocean Assessment, released in 2021, reiterate those of the first assessment in that almost all components of the ocean are impacted by climate change and human use. As a result, many of the benefits that humans derive from the ocean continue to be at risk including food safety and security, energy and resource provision, human health and well-being, coastal safety and the maintenance of ecosystem processes.

The World Ocean Assessments recognise that while progress has been made, challenges remain at national, regional and global levels in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its targets, particularly in achieving and implementing actions that ensure future sustainability. Without widespread recognition of the role of the ocean in supporting human wellbeing and livelihoods, the need for informed decision making that fully utilises scientific knowledge, tools and products and equitable sharing of knowledge and technologies, achieving a sustainable future that supports a healthy and productive ocean will continue to be challenged.

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 the next 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 assessments 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.

To conclude, we would like to highlight that the participation of the Regular Process in this conference as a United Nations organ, with representation by members of the Group of Experts of the third cycle represents ongoing efforts towards building sustained and mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships between the Regular Process, UN bodies, intergovernmental organisations and the broader ocean community in ensuring widespread engagement and involvement in the World Ocean Assessments.

Thank you.