

Excellencies, Colleagues,

The UN Ocean Conference comes at a critical time. Our oceans, seas and marine resources are vital to every aspect of our lives. They provide us with food security and oxygen, support job creation and biodiversity, they are central for trade and sustainable economic growth, and the list goes on and on. The need to scale up efforts for the implementation of SDG14 and to reaffirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources, cannot be overemphasized.

When talking about implementation of international law, I would risk saying that, unfortunately, without setting the national legal tools accompanied with strong, independent, inspection and enforcement national system, countries will not be able to implement our true intentions to cure the oceans and seas.

Since the mid 1990's Israel has been taking action in exactly this route: eliminating LBS of pollution; close inspection and enforcement on the shipping and o&g sectors; preserving the marine environment by MPA's; and creating zero tolerance atmosphere against marine environment offenders.

Israel, together with all Mediterranean countries, joined forces to turn the region in to a Sulphur emissions control area which obliges ships to use low Sulphur fuel, saving human lives and benefiting the marine environment. Last week, the Israeli parliament approved the Regulations of Air Pollution Prevention from Ships, which will enable Israel to fully apply and enforce the Annex 6 of the MARPOL convention. Also, we actively participate in INTERPOL's marine enforcement programs "30 day at sea" to fight offshore crime leading to marine pollution. Our inspection and enforcement program checks

at least 20% of the ships calling at Israeli ports, for compliance with the international maritime conventions.

Excellencies,

The global emergency of oceans, seas and marine resources is indeed alarming and requires urgent actions. The few examples above serve to show that, actions, regulatory measures, targeted polices, enforcement and compliance assurance measures, can get us closer to the target.

We need to reiterate: Think and plan globally and act with determination, locally

Thank you.