



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

**2nd United Nations Ocean Conference
Interactive Dialogue 8: Leveraging interlinkages between
Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation
of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Tejo Hall, Altice Arena, 01 July 2022**

Thank you, Co-chairs.

A healthy ocean is an important pillar of the SDGs and a prerequisite for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda SDG 14 on “Life below Water” and is interlinked with other SDGs, such as goals 1 (no poverty), 2 (no hunger), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (renewable energy), 8 (good jobs and economic growth), 12 (responsible consumption), and 13 (climate action).

These interlinkages create opportunities to protect the marine environment, promote sustainable fisheries, and invest in ocean sciences. However, global efforts have yet to achieve the desired targets.

In our national context as a developing state, one of the most observable interlinkages is the inevitable link between marine pollution in the form of single-use plastics and the economic condition of our people. Billions of plastic sachets are sold each year in our country so that our people are able to avail themselves of small quantities of personal care and food products, such as shampoo and soy sauce, simply because they do no

not have the economic power to purchase larger volumes in arguably more environmentally sustainable forms of packaging.

This shows that we cannot reduce marine pollution specifically in the form of plastic wastes, unless we address Goals 1 and 12 of the SDGs pertaining to the economic well-being and consumer habits of our people. This crisis urgently demands innovators, industry and governments to develop systemic solutions that prevent plastic from becoming waste in the first place, without impeding access to basic goods and without sacrificing development.

But plastic waste is just one of the many forms of marine pollution that wreak havoc on the well-being of our oceans.

The pandemic has impacted global efforts to attain SDG 14 and its targets.

On the positive side, it allowed us to revisit the paradigm and strengthen cooperation for a comprehensive green recovery strategy, anchored on blue economy initiatives, that would push forward employment and equitable growth towards responsible consumption, production and investment, and reduction of our carbon footprint. A blue recovery path would hopefully harmonize the protection and conservation of marine environment, socio-economic livelihoods, and human health. On the negative side, we saw the reversion to single-use consumables, particularly in medical and personal protective equipment and supplies, and in the supply chain for everything from food to medicines and vaccines.

As we prepare for the next crisis, whether driven by human health security concerns, natural disaster or conflict that would lead to insecurity and instability, research and innovation toward creating choices that are not binary, not a choice between environment or health for example, but toward achieving goals together, is not just a worthwhile investment, but a must.

SDG14 and its 10 targets were never intended to be achieved in a silo, and as we move towards the close of Agenda 2030, we remind ourselves of that adage: leaving no one behind. States must adopt an integrated approach, recognize that the SDGs are indivisible, and work cohesively with people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership at the core.

Thank you.