

2022 UN Ocean Conference

Theme: “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”

Statement of ROMANIA, Interactive Dialogue:

“Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”

**Friday, 01 July,
-from 10 am. to 1 p.m.-**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- First of all, let me start by expressing my country's gratitude to Portugal and Kenya for convening this meeting, and for the invitation to attend the 2022 UN Conference on Oceans, a very important event focused on the health and functionality of our oceans, based on science and innovation, in the context of the triple planetary crisis we are currently facing.
- In September 2015, Romania adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development together with other 193 Member States of the United Nation, a comprehensive document for global action on the development that promotes the balance between three dimensions of the sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental.
- In Romania's perspective, an important key role in solving the challenges is to find the appropriate way for leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Particularly, I would like to refer to SDG6, *Clean Water and Sanitation*, and SDG14, *Conserve and Sustainably Use of The Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development*, because these objectives reflect very well the interlinkage and the impact regarding the land-based activities on the marine environment.
- The marine environment is severely affected by the pollution coming from the seas and oceans basins, through the rivers which are collecting and discharging their waters into marine waters. Untreated or insufficient treated wastewaters coming from urban settlements contributes significantly to the marine water deterioration and affects the marine ecosystems, particularly in the coastal areas. Therefore, ensuring proper sanitation system with proper wastewater treatment, will tremendously contribute to the pollution reduction in rivers and seas.

As we all know, these objectives require important financial resources and time to be implemented, and Romania is committed to accelerate the necessary measures in order to reach the SDG 6 and 14.

- Romania fully supports the idea that the 2030 Agenda must be implemented together with the local authorities, responding directly to the citizens' needs. Their needs, interests and concerns must be addressed by drawing up local and national development strategies.
- In this regard, the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests set up the necessary legal framework for solving the challenges regarding protection and preservation of biodiversity, ensuring the resilience and ecological balance of the Black Sea. We consider that by implementing protection measures, Romania contributes not only to the protection of the Black Sea, but also to the Planetary Ocean.
- The National Strategy for the protection of the Black Sea was built according to the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, keeping in mind its objective to achieve the Good Environmental Status in all EU Seas, including the Black Sea, linked, thus, to SGD14 of the Agenda 2030. For reaching this desiderate, Romania periodically evaluates the ecological status of the marine ecosystem based on the national programme of monitoring. These measures have been included in the so-called “Programme of measures on achieving good environmental status of the Black Sea marine region”, which has been adopted in 2020. The programme is addressing the prevention and elimination of pollution from land-based sources, including nutrients pollution, and from maritime activities, including marine plastic and microplastic litter.
- I would like to underline that many measures address the protection and preservation of marine ecological diversity, for instance extension of marine protected areas, linking, thus, the achievement of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the 2030 Agenda objectives.

- At the same time, the measures stipulated in the national programme aim to avoid overfishing and stopping the destructive fishing which led to the loss of fish stocks and damaged the sea bed integrity.
- Last, but not the least, there are measures to limit the noise with negative effects on marine fauna and sea bed integrity.
- Because of the complexity of the marine ecosystems, and in order to answer to the challenges, Romania supports the necessity to develop the scientific knowledges, innovation, and the transfer of know-how on marine field, in order to improve the resilience of the marine ecosystems to the human pressures, including climate changes.
- By all these actions afore-mentioned, we aim to implement the 2030 Agenda at national level, and thus, contribute to its implementation at regional and global level.
- On the other hand, we are aware that without joined efforts of all riparian countries of the Black Sea marine region it will be impossible to achieve SGD14. In this context, and despite the political situation in the area, Romania is committed to enhance the cooperation with the Black Sea countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A remarkable point of cooperation process is represented by the joined and coordinated measures of Romania and Bulgaria, set up to achieve the good environmental status of the Black Sea which will also contribute to achieving SDG14.
- Finally, I would like to thank you for the attention and to assure you on Romania's commitment in achieving SDG14, together with all the SDGs for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Muito obrigado!