

INTERVENTION BY THE DELEGATION OF ZIMBABWE AT THE UN OCEAN CONFERENCE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE 8 ON INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON LEVERAGING INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN SDG14 AND OTHER GOALS TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA: 1 JULY 2022

Excellencies,

Our thanks goes to the Co-Chairs, as well as to the Moderator, and all the panelists and lead discussants, for the insightful presentations.

Zimbabwe is pleased to participate in this discussion on the health of the Ocean. We have heard in all the discussions since Monday, that the ocean is our life source, supporting humanity's sustenance and that of every other organism on earth, hence the urgency of ensuring that it is protected now.

Distinguished delegates,

It is important that we are having this in-depth discussion, on the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs, and the inter-connection between the various goals and targets. It is for the same reason that, Zimbabwe, a landlocked country, is taking an active role in the implementation and review of SDG14.

Excellencies,

It is our firm belief that for the interlinkages between SDG14 and the other Goals to be realized, the key means of implementation, including: science, technology and innovation; capacity building; and technology transfer are critical.

The 2030 Agenda, recognises that science, technology and innovation are essential enablers and drivers for sustainable development, and that access to appropriate, reliable, affordable and environmentally sound technologies is critical for achieving sustainable development objectives.

Equally important, is the aspect of ensuring that the best science data is acquired, and knowledge shared, as this is critical to enable a worldwide community to contribute to a global endeavour that no one country can undertake in isolation.

Zimbabwe underlines that capacity building and technology transfer, is also more useful on the national level if it maximizes synergies between international policies and agreements, and allows countries to fulfill national priorities related to sustainable development.

We remain concerned that, even as we all recognize the role of capacity building and technology transfer to support national action on the SDGs, inequalities continue to widen when it comes to frontier technologies. In the time of deep changes driven by digitization, big data, automatization and artificial intelligence, access to new technologies will have a defining role in reducing the inequality gap.

It is Zimbabwe's firm position that, awareness raising, capacity-building, technology transfer, information, and education should be extended to all countries, including landlocked developing countries, in the context of the outcomes of this Conference, to ensure an inclusive approach to the implementation of SDG 14, and leaving no one behind.

Excellencies,

The Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development offers a timely opportunity to operationalize robust capacity building and technology transfer measures under the discussions on the health of the Ocean, and maximize synergies with other international commitments - as part of broader efforts to achieve 2030 Agenda and all the 17 SDGs.

As we continue to engage, let us take into consideration that the SDGs are indivisible and should be implemented in an inclusive manner. It is clear that their implementation should take into consideration the interconnectedness of the people and of the planet.

In conclusion I wish to reiterate Zimbabwe's commitment to the implementation SDG 14 and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.