



OCEAN CONSERVANCY

Felipe Victoria, Senior Manager for International Policy
Roundtable 1: Governance

Excellencies, Delegates, Esteemed Colleagues,

Ocean Conservancy would like to thank the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Tajikistan for their leadership as co-hosts of this conference and on the topic of water for the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

As a fundamental part of all aspects of life, water is inextricably linked to the three pillars of sustainable development, and supports the achievement of many SDGs through close interlinkages.

Excellencies,

Good water management depends upon having good water governance; on taking the right kinds of actions, strategies, and investments at scale critical to healthy estuaries, where a vibrant and healthy ocean begins. Waterways are connected to the ocean, so these three done properly will help reduce hazards, build capacities for adaptation, and translate into ocean management as well.

Ocean Conservancy believes that for good water governance we need to allocate and distinguish roles and responsibilities for water policymaking, policy implementation, and operational management, and foster co-ordination through a multistakeholder approach where the people impacted by decisions have a meaningful voice in the governance of the resource.

Our national and international experience has shown us that to produce, update, and share policy-relevant water-related data can have a decisive effect guiding and improving ocean and water policy. As an example, in Lake Victoria lost and abandoned fishing gear is having a direct impact in communities that depend on the lake for their livelihoods. To address this, Ocean Conservancy's Global Ghost Gear Initiative has done extensive hotspot mapping for retrieval and disposal of this water debris that has such a negative impact on this ecosystem and its biodiversity.

Finally, we believe that it is critical that water financing is more flexible so the funding can adjust to fit the context, instead of the context being forced to fit into the funding.

Through melting glaciers, storms, droughts, and rising seas, water is the keyway through which climate change impacts are felt and measured. This changing climate will make water management more challenging, and we must think about a healthy ocean as we work to address water challenges and internationally agreed water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide inputs today, and Ocean Conservancy looks forward to supporting a successful and transformative UN Water Conference.