



**Themes of the Ocean Action Panels for the
third United Nations Ocean Conference (9-13 June 2025)**

Written suggestions of the European Union and its Member States

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden

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The EU and its Member States would like to suggest the following themes that contribute to achieving the targets of SDG14:

- **Promoting ocean-based climate action.** The Conference should discuss the challenges the ocean faces from climate change, ways to further improve the understanding of the role of the ocean in the Earth's climate system, and possible solutions the ocean can provide, including in light of national strategies on adaptation and mitigation, 10 years after the Paris Agreement.
- **Supporting the swift ratification, entry into force and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.** The Conference should discuss ways to maintain momentum on the ratification, entry into force and implementation of the Agreement, including by building partnerships to support developing countries, to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources through international cooperation and coordination.
- **Tackling the marine pollution crisis.** The Conference should address the sources and impacts of marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land to sea, and advance solutions based on science, innovation and good practices from governments, the private sector and civil society.
- **Reducing plastic pollution in the ocean.** The Conference should address marine pollution from plastics by supporting an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and by looking at innovative solutions and approaches through enhanced partnerships with diverse stakeholders.
- **Strengthening the science-policy interface.** The Conference should look at the existing science-policy interface at all levels and propose ways to reinforce science-policy interaction and further build up ocean knowledge, including through enhanced collaboration, to strengthen evidence-

based action to improve ocean health. The Conference should build on the outcomes of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference and also encourage ocean literacy among the wider public.

- **Strengthening conservation of coastal and marine areas through marine protected areas.** The Conference should take stock of efforts to establish and effectively manage marine protected areas around the globe, discuss ways to accelerate the implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and enhance cooperation on marine protected areas between relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies.
- **Further developing regional ocean governance.** The Conference should address and explore ways to strengthen the role played by regional organisations, including Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, in implementing SDG14 and relevant ocean-related goals and targets set at the global level to deliver ocean sustainability.
- **Promoting sustainable aquatic food production.** Sustainable aquatic food production is a key component for livelihoods and nutrition in coastal states and in particular in low-income coastal states. The Conference should address the needs of those populations who rely on the ocean for income and livelihoods and consider actions that will make their blue economy activities sustainable and equitable.