

Contribution of the Russian Federation on the themes of the Ocean Action Panels for the third United Nations Ocean Conference

The Russian Federation would like to propose that one of the Ocean Action Panels at the third United Nations Ocean Conference will be devoted to **the role of sustainable maritime transport**.

Sustainable maritime transport is highly relevant to Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), which focuses on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources. Our rationale for choosing this theme is as follows:

1. **Economic Growth:** Sustainable maritime transport is vital for fostering economic growth, especially for countries dependent on maritime trade. By promoting sustainable practices such as efficient fuel consumption, reducing emissions, and minimizing waste, maritime transport can contribute to economic prosperity while minimizing negative impacts on the environment and society. This aligns with SDG 14's aim to promote sustainable economic growth, particularly in coastal communities and developing nations reliant on marine resources.

2. **Ensuring Universal Access to Energy:** Maritime transport plays a crucial role in ensuring universal access to energy by facilitating the transportation of various energy resources worldwide. The efficient movement of these resources through maritime channels is essential for meeting global energy demands. However, promoting sustainable maritime transport involves optimizing transportation methods and routes, reducing emissions, and implementing efficient practices. This approach is in line with SDG 14's objective of promoting sustainable energy use while minimizing adverse impacts on marine ecosystems.

3. **Impact on Ocean Ecosystems:** Unsustainable maritime transport practices, such as oil spills, pollution from shipping activities, and habitat destruction due to shipping lanes, can have significant negative impacts on ocean ecosystems. By implementing sustainable practices, maritime transport can help mitigate these adverse effects and support the conservation of marine life and habitats, in line with SDG 14.

4. **Science:** Sustainable maritime transport also supports scientific research and monitoring efforts in the marine environment. Ships often serve as platforms for scientific research, allowing scientists to study oceanographic processes, marine life, and climate change impacts. They contribute to data collection and monitoring efforts, which are essential for informed decision-making and effective management of marine resources, thereby enhancing scientific knowledge and research capacity related to the oceans.

5. Combatting Climate Change: The extension of navigation periods, driven by climate change-induced melting of Arctic ice, presents both challenges and opportunities for maritime transport. While this phenomenon underscores the urgent need to address climate change, it also offers advantages for shipping routes. For instance, the utilization of nuclear icebreakers exemplifies sustainable transport methods that do not emit greenhouse gases. These vessels can navigate through previously impassable Arctic routes, opening up new opportunities for maritime commerce while operating with minimal environmental impact. By leveraging such sustainable technologies and adapting to changing environmental conditions, the maritime industry can play a vital role in mitigating climate change and advancing the objectives of SDG 14.