



2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Contribution from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat (“the secretariat”) seeks to contribute to the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled “2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” (78/128), of 21 December 2023. More specifically, in accordance with the letter and its’ annex on the draft outline dated 16 February 2024 (Reference: DESA-2024-00301; DOALOS/2024/), this report will contribute to the background note to be prepared by the Secretary-General to inform the preparatory meeting of the 2025 United Nations Conference to be held in July 2024 at United Nations Headquarters.

2. Parties have recognized the importance of protecting the ocean and its ecosystems in the Convention and the Paris Agreement:

(a) In the Convention, Parties agreed to protect the climate system (Article 2), defined as the totality of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and geosphere and their interactions (Article 1.3, Article 4 (d)).

(b) In the Paris Agreement, Parties noted in its preamble the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth.

II. UNFCCC mandates on ocean-based climate action

3. At COP 25, the [Chile Madrid Time for Action](#) 2019, governments recognized the need to strengthen the understanding of, and action on, ocean and climate change under the UNFCCC. COP 25 mandated the first [Ocean and climate change dialogue](#), drawing upon the knowledge and scientific findings from the IPCC [Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a changing climate](#).

4. At COP 26, in the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) 2021 (Decision 1/CP.26 Paras. 60-61), building on the outcomes of the first ocean and climate change dialogue in 2020, Parties invited the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandates and workplans and to report on these activities within the existing reporting processes. Parties also invited

the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) Chair to hold an annual ocean and climate change dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action.

5. At COP 27/CMA 4, in 2022, the COP [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#) (Decision 1/CP.27 para. 50) and CMA [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#) (Decision 1/CMA.4 para. 79) continued to strengthen ocean-based action under the process and encouraged Parties to consider, as appropriate, ocean-based action in their national climate goals and in the implementation of these goals, including but not limited to nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies and adaptation communications. Additionally, the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled “2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” (77/242), of 10 January 2023, recalled the COP27 ocean mandate.

6. Decision 1/CP.27, para 49 welcomed the outcomes of and key messages from the ocean and climate change dialogue in [2022](#) and decided that future dialogues will, from 2023, be facilitated by two co-facilitators, selected by Parties biennially, who will be responsible for deciding the topics for and conducting the dialogue, in consultation with Parties and observers, and preparing an informal summary report to be presented in conjunction with the subsequent session of the Conference of the Parties. Mr. Julio Cordano (Chile), and Mr. Niall O’Dea (Canada) are the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue co-facilitators for the biennium 2023-24.

7. The 2023 [ocean dialogue](#) was held over two days on 13–14 June 2023 in conjunction with the fifty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (5–15 June 2023), Bonn, Germany. The ocean dialogue had 250 participants. The two topics addressed were: first, coastal ecosystem restoration, including blue carbon and second, fisheries and food security.

8. [The ocean dialogue](#) offered a vital forum for a) enhancing collaboration by mobilizing all actors, understanding and building ocean-based climate action; b), illustrating needs, opportunities and exchange of more than 250 [case studies](#) by Parties and observers thereby showcasing implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (“SDG”) 14 and interlinkages with other SDGs; and, c) highlighting key messages for COP28 and ways forward, including on the opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.

9. At COP28, in 2023, the outcome of the first global stocktake (Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 180), welcomed the outcomes of and the [informal summary report](#) on the 2023 [ocean dialogue](#) and encouraged further strengthening of ocean-based action, as appropriate.

10. At COP28, in 2023, the Global goal on adaptation (Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 9(d)), urged Parties and non-Party stakeholders to achieve by 2030, a target on accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, including through their management, enhancement, restoration and conservation and the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems.

III. Leveraging Interlinkages between SDG 14 and other SDGs towards ocean action: Challenges and opportunities

11. The relevant messages that emerged from the 2023 dialogue are detailed below.

12. **The dialogue calls on Parties to continue integrating ocean-based climate solutions into national climate policies and strategies, including into the nationally determined contributions (“NDCs”) and the national adaptation plans (“NAPs”).** This is considered vital to signal government priorities and mobilize finance; and to better streamline national focus areas with other international conventions and agreements, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (“GBF”). This message supports SDG 14, with interlinkages to SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 15 on life on land, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

13. **Advancing natural national accounting, ecosystem mapping, and robust indicators.** Coastal ecosystems hold immense ecological and economic value, necessitating their recognition as critical assets for conservation and restoration efforts. To achieve this

goal, natural national accounting, ecosystem mapping, and robust indicators must be advanced to support ocean-based climate action, monitoring, and evaluation. It was noted that the IPCC Wetlands Supplement is not well known. Consequently, the dialogue recommended that Parties must strengthen blue carbon accounting methodologies and tools and embrace the IPCC Wetlands Supplement in their national GHG inventories. This message supports SDG 14, with interlinkages to SDG 13, SDG 15 on life on land, and SDG 17.

14. Strengthening ocean-based systematic observation, research, and data management. The 2023 dialogue underscored the importance of strengthening ocean-focused research and data management for the assessment of blue carbon storage, ocean acidification, and conducting impact assessments, including for carbon dioxide removal technologies. Parties emphasized bridging knowledge gaps and promoting standardized data sharing to effectively integrate the ocean into climate commitments, including the NDCs. This message supports SDG 14 with interlinkages to SDG 13, SDG 17, SDG 7 on clean and affordable energy, and SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

15. Integration of aquatic food climate solutions within national processes, as well as at the multilateral level, including in the UNFCCC process. The dialogue highlights the importance of sustainable, aquatic foods to the global carbon cycle as well as the significant positive potential the ocean offers to achieve just transition to renewable sources of energy and low carbon food security. Parties are urged to link their national climate policies with their blue food production by adopting a systems/ecosystems-based approach. This message supports SDG 14 with interlinkages to SDG 13, SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 17.

16. Ocean action in the nationally determined contributions. In the 2023 NDCs [synthesis report](#) of the secretariat under the Paris Agreement, the new or updated NDCs reflect an increased recognition of the ocean's role in strengthening climate action. Of the 158 Parties with an adaptation component in their NDCs, 30 per cent identified ocean ecosystems as a priority sector for adaptation and 11 per cent developed quantified targets for both fisheries and ocean ecosystems. A total of 56 per cent of the 148 Parties integrated coastal and marine nature-based solutions within new or updated NDCs as part of mitigation or adaptation measures. This supports the implementation of SDGs 2, 14, 13 and 15.

17. The outcome of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement. The outcome of the first global stocktake underscores the importance of international cooperation for enhancing climate action across all sectors and regions. The outcome also encourages Parties and non-Party stakeholders to enhance cooperation on the implementation of multilateral environmental conventions and agreements, particularly their work under the Rio Conventions, to facilitate the achievement of the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals in a synergistic and efficient manner.

18. The outcome of the first global stocktake underscores the interconnectedness between SDG 14 and other SDGs. Specifically:

(a) The preamble emphasizes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including the ocean, recognizing biodiversity as "Mother Earth." This highlights the interconnectedness between SDGs 14 and 15.

(b) The outcome invites Parties to preserve and restore oceans and coastal ecosystems and scale up, as appropriate, ocean-based mitigation action (para. 35). This aligns with SDG 14's goal of conserving and sustainably using the oceans, while also contributing to SDGs 13 and 15.

(c) The outcome encourages the implementation of integrated, multi-sectoral solutions, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, and protecting, conserving, and restoring nature and ecosystems, including marine and coastal ecosystems, which may offer economic, social, and environmental benefits such as improved resilience and well-being (para.55). This aligns with SDGs 2, 13, and 14.

(d) Parties note that ecosystem-based approaches, including ocean-based adaptation and resilience measures, can reduce a range of climate change risks and provide multiple co-benefits (para. 56). This reflects the synergies between SDGs 14 and 13.

IV. Mobilizing all actors to accelerating ocean action

19. The ocean dialogue emphasized the crucial role of partnerships, collaboration, and cooperation to accelerate the implementation of SDG 14 as detailed below.

20. **Investing in and mobilizing finance for SDG 14 implementation.** Participants emphasized the lack of adequate funding for the implementation of SDG 14. The importance of increasing, scaling up, and ensuring stable and accessible finance flows for the implementation of sustainable fishing practices and management and restoration of coastal ecosystems, was emphasized. Additionally, the importance of de-risking investments with long-term finance, conducting cost-benefit analyses, diverse investment schemes, and establishing clear policies and regulations, was highlighted. The dialogue messages underscored the importance of financial mechanisms that channel global and national funding to ensure projects respond to local needs.

21. **Marine science and technology (including technology development and transfer) and use of traditional knowledge for ocean health.** Participants emphasized the importance of access to cutting-edge technology and technology transfer, and allocation of funding for new technologies. Participants emphasized the crucial role of and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples to advance technology and transition away from fossil fuels in fisheries.

22. **Capacity building.** During the dialogue, there was a call to build awareness and capacity of funding institutions, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, to better facilitate access to funds for small-scale producers. The importance of removing barriers for easier access to funds, capacity building, and promoting skill development, especially for developing countries and communities with relatively less capacity, was emphasized.

23. **Strengthening partnerships (including voluntary commitments).** The ocean dialogue underscored the importance of partnerships. Participants discussed key initiatives, including those undertaken in partnership at the global, national, and regional levels with a diverse set of stakeholders, including the 2030 [Ocean Breakthroughs](#) by the [Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action](#). In this regard, the critical role of fostering partnerships, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and adopting a whole of society approach with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, vulnerable groups including youth and women, and the private sector to address policy barriers, facilitate investments and promote effective conservation efforts, was highlighted. In another key message, strengthening institutional linkages between partners at national and international levels and across UN mandates and processes, including the recent Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to enhance global ambition and action for a climate resilient ocean, was emphasized.

24. **Mobilizing all actors.** The ocean dialogue underscored the need to mobilize all relevant stakeholders to accelerate ocean action, with a focus on the role of women, youth, indigenous peoples, and local communities to leave no one behind. Specifically, it was emphasized that Indigenous Peoples and coastal communities must be engaged from project inception to build trust, integrate local and traditional knowledge, and to respect their rights and take into account the principle of free and prior informed consent. Indigenous knowledge systems and local practices must be integrated with science and policy, while adopting a rights-based approach.