

**Preparatory Meeting for the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference
Tuesday, 2 July 2024, Trusteeship Council Chamber**

UNDRR Statement

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues,

Many hazard events that affect our societies, including hurricanes, tsunamis and sea level rise, are linked to the ocean. At the same time, healthy oceans and coastal ecosystems help reduce the impact of these disasters by protecting shorelines and supporting resilience.

As Member States consider the possible elements for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference outcome document, UNDRR would thus like to highlight a few central considerations that are fundamental to achieve SDG14.

First, ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs play a crucial role in reducing disaster risks by protecting lives and livelihoods from ocean-based hazards. Promoting these nature-based solutions is vital to mitigate the impacts of disasters.

Second, hazards directly linked to climate change, including ocean acidification and sea-level rise, are posing growing challenges to the international community. These hazards require robust risk identification, as well as prevention, preparedness and response strategies. Effective early warning systems are essential for anticipatory and early action, as well as to spur action to increase resilience to ocean-related hazards and disaster risk.

Third, we must address marine pollution, particularly plastic pollution, which severely compromises the resilience of marine ecosystems and heightens vulnerability to disasters. Both microplastics and plastic waste are recognized as hazards that must be tackled through ambitious actions to strengthen ecosystem resilience.

Finally, supporting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) remains a top priority. These countries are particularly vulnerable to ocean-based hazards, and scaling up investment in resilient infrastructure and scientific knowledge is essential for enhancing their capacity to withstand such hazards.

In conclusion, UNDRR is committed to supporting the preparations for the upcoming Ocean Conference and looks forward to collaborating with Member States and stakeholders for a resilient and sustainable future for all.

Thank you.