

Concept paper propose for the 10 Ocean Action panels at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference

a. Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers

China is a major fishery producer and a trading power. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the development of fisheries, and has taken practical and effective measures to actively develop green and healthy aquaculture, conserve aquatic biological resources, and promote the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture, with notable results. On the one hand, Adhere to the development path of aquaculture and vigorously develop aquaculture. At the same time, a large number of aquaculture aquatic products are exported to the international market, which plays a positive role in meeting the demand of the international market and reducing the dependence on natural fishery resources. On the other hand, the conservation and management of fishery resources should be strengthened to promote the long-term sustainable utilization. China implements a "dual control" system for total Marine fishery resources management and Marine fishing to control the intensity of fishing and ensure the sustainability of fishing. We will build Marine ranches, increase them and release them, and effectively restore offshore fishery resources.

At present, the global extreme weather is frequent and recurrent, the economic recovery is weak, and the hungry population rises sharply, We need to promote sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture, which is in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The Chinese government will deepen practical cooperation in fishery with other countries, especially developing countries, give full play to their respective advantages, strengthen collaborative innovation in scientific research and industry, and ensure the global sustainable supply of aquatic products; explore more effective fishery management measures to jointly combat illegal fishery activities; build a smooth and mutually beneficial international industrial chain and supply chain, promote the trade facilitation of aquatic products, and jointly contribute to the global supply of aquatic products, increase

employment, reduce poverty, and ensure food safety.

China advocates the management and conservation of Marine fishery resources in a scientific manner and in a scientific way, and strives to strike a balance between the exploitation of Marine fishery resources and the protection of the Marine ecological environment, so as to promote the long-term sustainable utilization of Marine fishery resources. China has actively implemented the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14, continuously improved its management system for ocean-going fisheries, continued to strengthen management of ocean-going fisheries, actively participated in international fisheries governance, and severely cracked down on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, with a view to contributing to the long-term sustainable use of global fisheries resources.

b. Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, including deep-sea ecosystems

The health of marine ecosystems is essential to the sustained development of human civilization, and to the present and future development of the maritime community of shared future. China has prioritized the conservation, restoration, and governance of marine ecosystems. Over the years, China has coordinated and integrated the conservation and systematic restoration of marine ecosystems in a manner that respects and protects nature and follows its laws. It utilizes science-based decision-making and targeted measures that aim to safeguard eco-environmental security and improve the diversity, stability and sustainability of marine ecosystems. China has also established exemplary governance models, such as the “Xiamen Practice,” which demonstrates innovative strategies for ecological governance in bay cities. To build on these efforts, the following recommendations are proposed:

- (1) Ecosystem-based marine ecological restoration. Promote integrated and systemic approaches to marine conservation and restoration by strengthen top-level design and strategic planning for key estuaries, bays, islands, and coastal zones. Implement coordinated measures such as shoreline rehabilitation, wetland restoration, and habitat recovery to improve the quality and stability of marine ecosystems.

- (2) Enhancing coastal resilience and climate adaptation. Strengthen the nature-based solutions, by prioritizing the conservation and restoration of critical ecosystems, including mangroves, coastal salt marshes, seagrass meadows, coral reefs, and beaches. Promote resilient coastal development that enhances ecosystems' disaster prevention, carbon sequestration, and climate adaptation capacities.
- (3) Leveraging ecosystem services and realizing ecological value. Maximize the ecosystem services derived from marine conservation and restoration efforts, while addressing synergies and trade-offs among various ecosystem services. Explore innovative mechanisms such as carbon credit trading and eco-tourism to unlock the economic potential of ecological products and ensure sustainable restoration efforts.
- (4) Fostering International Cooperation and Strengthening Ocean Governance. Actively participate in global marine governance, strengthen international collaboration in scientific research and practical efforts for marine ecological conservation and restoration, and effectively promote the improvement of marine ecosystem management. Enhance cooperation among regions, organizations and nations to improve scientific knowledge and understanding of deep-sea ecosystems. Provide support and assistance to developing and least-developed countries in deep-sea exploration and research through collaborative projects and other initiatives.

c.Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and sub-regional level

The ocean is an important carrier and support for implementing the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, especially SDG-14. The Chinese government places great importance on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In terms of achieving SDG-14, it expands and deepens cooperation with relevant countries and international organizations in global, regional, sub-regional, and bilateral fields through the high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, and the Global Security

Initiative. China actively participates in the global ecological and marine governance systems, promotes the building of marine ecological civilization, develops "Blue Partnerships," enhances maritime connectivity, and fosters practical cooperation in various fields. Together with other countries and international organizations, it strives to make greater contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDG-14.

d.Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities

Marine pollution not only has adverse impacts on marine eco-environment, but also threatens the sustainable development of human society. To synergize land and sea pollution control and strengthen overall eco-environmental protection, China has established an integrated system for governing the marine eco-environment. In 2022, China issued the 14th Five-Year Plan for Marine Ecological and Environmental Protection, and the Action Plan for the Comprehensive Governance of Key Sea Areas, strengthening targeted pollution control and continuously improving the environment quality of coastal waters, especially for key sea areas. In 2023, China revised the Marine Environment Protection Law, continuing to promote a systemic governance transformation of marine pollution to coordinated land-sea management and overall governance. China adopts a holistic approach to marine eco-environmental governance, while making extra efforts to address key points and problems. By adopting measures such as comprehensive governance of key sea areas, prevention and control of pollution from rivers entering the sea, strengthened administration of sea-entering sewage discharge outlets, special actions of marine litter clean-up and control, and mariculture environment supervision, China has continuously improved marine eco-environment quality. In recent years, China's nearshore water quality has improved generally. In 2023, the proportion of sea areas with good to excellent water quality saw a 21.3 percentage points increase from 2012.

To further address marine pollution issues, we propose:

- (1) Coordinated land and sea management to improve environment quality of coastal waters. Improve the water quality of rivers entering the sea, take the management of nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients as

key measures, and promote the establishment of a governance system for eco-environment by integrating upstream and downstream river basins. Carry out thorough survey and rectification of sea-entering sewage outlets and marine litter clean-up.

- (2) Targeted prevention and control of marine pollution at sea. Placing equal emphasis on development and protection, tighten pollution control and supervision over industries and fields such as marine engineering, dumping at sea, mariculture and maritime transport, and actively respond to marine environmental emergencies, making every effort to reduce the impact of marine development and utilization on the marine eco-environment.
- (3) Strengthened scientific and technological innovation and incentive scheme. Promote scientific and technological innovation and digital empowerment to drive prevention and control of marine pollution, and carry out key technological research projects for coordinated carbon and pollution reduction. Explore and implement multiple investment mechanisms for marine pollution prevention and control. Expand channels for public participation and thus create a good atmosphere.
- (4) A maritime community with a shared future. Actively participate in the international process of global marine governance, implement regional sea action plans, and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The international community should increase technical and financial assistance to developing and underdeveloped countries so as to jointly deal with marine pollution problems.

e. Leveraging ocean , climate, and biodiversity interlinkages.

Climate change has increasingly raised concerns globally regarding its impact on marine ecosystems, including issues such as global warming, sea level rise, ocean acidification, and hypoxia. These phenomena lead to the frequent occurrence of disasters such as coral bleaching and Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB). To address these challenges, the following recommendations are proposed:

- (1) Implement Marine Ecological Early Warning and Monitoring. Strengthen the land-sea-air integrated marine observation and monitoring network and improve the technical system for marine ecological early warning and monitoring. Establish continuous monitoring of the ecological status and trends of typical ecosystems, including coral reefs, seagrass meadows, coastal salt marshes, etc. Advance the application of technologies, including satellite remote sensing, online monitoring, and environmental DNA. Optimize the early warning indicators and establish a real-time monitoring and early warning mechanism.

- (2) Advance Research on Marine Ecological Disaster Mechanisms. Investigate the mechanisms, key processes, and developmental trends of typical ecological disasters in nearshore areas, such as hypoxia, ocean acidification, green tides, and red tides. Strengthen efforts to improve the timeliness and accuracy of ecological disaster early warnings.

f. Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies , sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind.

China's ocean economy development has played an important role in realizing high-speed and stable economic growth. Chinese government attaches great importance to sustainable marine economic development, and is committed to optimizing the layout of ocean economic development, building the platform for marine industry co-operation, leading the development of emerging industries through scientific and technological innovation, promoting the long-term development of ocean energy, seawater desalination, marine pharmaceutical and biological products industries, and guiding financial support for the development of the ocean economy.

We fully recognize the importance of sustainable ocean economic development in enhancing the development resilience of the coastal countries, improving the living standards of people living in coastal areas and increasing the resilience of coastal communities. We note that coastal

countries across the world have published strategies and action plans on sustainable ocean economic development as an important initiative to promote economic globalization and implement the SDG 14.

We are willing to work with ocean countries to continue to advance the implementation of SDG 14 and promote the development of a sustainable ocean economy. We would like to encourage all countries to enhance mutual trust and cooperation, strengthen ocean-related investments and economic and trade exchanges, contribute to the sustainable ocean economic development on a global scale.

g. Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security

NONE

h. Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.

The health and safety of the world's oceans are linked to human health and well-being. Marine science can provide solutions to global ocean problems, which has profound significance for global sustainable development. We recognize the importance of cooperation in the development of marine science, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. Therefore, we would like to propose:

- (1) Strengthen scientific and technological cooperation under the framework of the UN Ocean Decade, and further co-design and co-implement international marine science and technology programs, projects and other actions, provide more solutions and public goods, to build the science we need for the ocean we want.
- (2) The construction and operation of the global ocean observing system is crucial to the development and dissemination of marine science and technology. We encourage the international cooperation with the developing countries, especially the small island countries and

underdeveloped countries, to enhance the capacity of marine observation, disaster prevention and reduction, and increase the understanding of marine environment.

- (3) Strengthen the global application of ocean satellites, promote practical cooperation in international sharing and application of ocean satellite observation data, and promote the improvement of global ocean remote sensing technology.
- (4) Improve the research and development of marine spatial planning technologies and methods, enhance the practicality and applicability of marine spatial planning in areas such as blue economy development, marine ecological protection and restoration, and climate change adaptation.
- (5) Strengthen the capacity building of marine ecological protection and restoration technologies such as seagrass, coral reefs, oyster reefs, etc. Improve the scientific support system, promote high-quality development with high-level protection, effectively enhance the resilience and stability of marine ecosystems, promote harmonious coexistence between human and sea, and achieve sustainable development of the ocean.

i. Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS

[It is proposed that the title of the topic be adjusted to "Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law **including** the UNCLOS"]

The international law of the sea, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter referred to as the UNCLOS) , establishes the overall framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources. China has always adhered to the

concept of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, actively fulfilled its international obligations, and made contributions to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. We call on the international community to:

- (1) Effectively implementing the rules of the international laws for the oceans, including the UNCLOS, relating to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources. Jointly promote the entry into force of the Agreement Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), and promote the formulation of subsequent rules for the Agreement. Safeguard the just and reasonable order of the oceans and the common interests of the international community, and promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans.
- (2) Actively engage in global and regional collaborations regarding the conservation of marine biological resources, the prevention and control of marine environmental pollution, and the sustainable utilization of marine resources. Adhere to the harmonious coexistence of human and nature, promote the construction of ecological civilization, assist in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14, and facilitate the establishment of a maritime community with a shared future.

j. Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG-14

NONE