

Contribution to the Concept Papers of the 2025UNOC Ocean Action Panels

The Republic of Korea (ROK) would like to submit its contributions to the Ocean Action Panel Concept Papers. These reflect the ROK's priorities and ongoing efforts to address each of the themes, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable ocean management and international cooperation.

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

- Transitioning from regulation-focused to science-based fisheries management systems to enhance sustainable fisheries
- Creating marine forests to restore fishery resources

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

- Designating and managing marine protected species to maintain marine ecosystem biodiversity
- Implementing the Marine Area Utilization Impact Assessment to preemptively evaluate environmental impacts of marine development activities
- Continuously expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

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

- Regularly convening high-level meetings on marine issues within regional platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Oceans-related ministerial meeting

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

- Addressing remaining issues and bolstering international efforts for the adoption of a global plastics treaty
- Introducing a life-cycle management system for marine plastic waste:
 - (Land-based pollution) Establishing management systems to prevent land-based waste from entering the ocean
 - (Marine-based pollution) Developing a fishing gear life cycle management approach, including the creation of biodegradable fishing gear and the introduction of fishing gear deposit schemes

e. Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages

- Establishing an international framework for managing and regulating biofouling on ship hulls
- Expanding blue carbon verification to mitigate carbon emissions and address climate change
- Conducting research on the impacts of climate change on fisheries through marine climate observation and prediction, with a focus on scientific and policy-oriented responses

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

- Green transition in port operations by decarbonizing port handling equipment and establishing renewable energy infrastructure
- Promoting global expansion of green shipping corridors to establish a sustainable maritime transport system
- Strengthening disaster preparedness by establishing real-time early warning systems for coastal disasters and constructing disaster-resilient ports
- Improving economic and living infrastructure in fishing villages

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

- Expansion of eco-friendly aquaculture industries
- Raising international awareness of the advantages of aquaculture, such as carbon reduction and marine ecosystem protection
- Enhancing capacity to eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing

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

- Developing and disseminating life-cycle-based ocean education programs

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

- Accelerating the entry into force of the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and the deep seabed

j. Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14

- Mobilizing financial resources through mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF)