



## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations**

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**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**

**Nice, 9 – 13 June 2025**

**General debate**

**Statement on behalf of the Czech Republic**

**delivered by Mr. František Talíř,  
Deputy Minister of the Environment**

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Mister/Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a privilege to address this distinguished gathering at the 3<sup>rd</sup> United Nations Ocean Conference. On behalf of the Czech Republic, I extend our gratitude to the Government of France and Costa Rica for co-hosting and organizing this important meeting.

We convene at a time when oceans, seas and marine resources are under immense pressure. With only five years left to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, only about 10% of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 targets are on track or met. Eutrophication, increasing acidification, heavy pollution and rising temperatures – all of these factors threaten the health of the ocean and have a huge impact on habitats, biodiversity and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Czechia reaffirms its full commitment to the targets of SDG 14 and acknowledges the significance of ocean-related issues while recognizing the oceans as a crucial component of the global ecosystem. We strongly support urgent action to conserve the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

At the national level, Czechia has taken decisive steps to implement and integrate many multilateral environmental agreements and instruments related to oceans, seas and marine resources. Currently, we are finalizing the update of national biodiversity strategy which is implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through cross-sectoral approach. In order to fully implement all GBF goals in long-term perspective, the overall national targets will be set until the 2050 as well.

In joining international efforts to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, Czechia signed the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in September 2023. We recognize BBNJ as a crucial agreement for establishing a global framework to protect marine biodiversity in international waters and fully support its core principles.

Czechia is aware of the crucial role ocean plays in sustaining life on Earth. As a proud contracting government to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, we stand firmly in support of international efforts to protect whale populations. Whales are not only majestic creatures but also play a vital role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, contributing to carbon sequestration and ocean biodiversity. Through our participation in the Convention, Czechia reaffirms its commitment to the conservation of marine life and the promotion of sustainable practices, recognizing that protecting the ocean is a shared responsibility of the global community.

In addition to that, Czechia stands ready to do more, joining forces with our colleagues in the EU and around the globe to forge a global agreement on plastic pollution that addresses the urgent crisis in our marine environments. Our oceans are drowning in plastic, and the devastating impact on ecosystems is escalating at an alarming rate. However, the international community has not yet reached the consensus we need. We must unite to stop the flow of plastic into our oceans and undertake bold efforts to clean them up. We, therefore, call upon all countries to gather in Geneva this summer and agree a transformative plastic treaty that will revitalise the health of our oceans. Esteemed colleagues, let us not linger, the time for this treaty is now.

The ocean plays an essential role in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, including through ocean-based adaptation and resilience. We emphasize the particular importance of implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, including the goal to limit the temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. In accordance with the Sendai Framework, we promote coherence between disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. Czechia provides support to global initiatives related to anticipatory action, prevention, and climate security, including the Early Warnings for All initiative.

Czechia is also committed to working collaboratively with all governments to meet our shared environmental goals. In this regard, Czechia also as a donor country supports the Global Environment Facility as an appropriate international mechanism that provides resources to developing countries and we actively participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> replenishment negotiations.

Czechia recognizes the significant potential of the Nice Ocean Action Plan, which could strengthen the global efforts in the protection of the marine environment. Although Czechia is a landlock country, we firmly believe that the Action Plan could uphold social standards for all and continue to promote cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and international levels.

Excellencies, ocean is under intense pressure from human activities and is threatened by overexploitation. This crisis is not only an environmental issue—it is a question of equity for current and future generations. International cooperation and effective implementation of ongoing processes will shape the future of life on Earth. Let us ensure that we will

leave this conference with renewed resolve, not only to support the implementation of SDG 14 but to transform the way we all interact with ocean.

In closing, I would like to thank once again the government of France and Costa Rica and especially citizens of Nice for their warm welcome and hospitality.

Thank you.