

Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt
Ocean Action Panel 9 – United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC 3)

Nice, France – 13th of June 2025

Excellencies,

Just building on what has been mentioned on the panel, we recognize of course the essential role of fisheries in national food security, nutrition, and economic development, especially in supporting livelihoods within our coastal communities.

In fact, Egypt is among the countries most affected and vulnerable by climate change, with sea-level rise posing severe threats to its fisheries and coastal ecosystems.

The Nile Delta—a critical agricultural and ecological zone, with more than 50 million residents, and identified by the IPCC, as one of three world's most climate-threatened mega-deltas—faces erosion of wetlands, saltwater intrusion into vital freshwater systems, and declining fish stocks due to disrupted reproduction.

These impacts compound risks to food security, freshwater resources, and coastal communities, with the Delta's land subsidence, projected to intensify by 2050, further destabilizing our economy and ecological balance.

Trying to solve these issues, Egypt has launched several steps to address the challenges linking oceans health, fisheries, and food security, both nationally and through international cooperation, like the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership, that is now part of FAO global action plan, to improve access to finance, knowledge, and capacity-building, to ensure food security, in the face of environmental pressures, including those affecting aquatic systems.

In addition, we established the Sharm El-Sheikh Joint Work of Climate Action Implementation on Agriculture and Food Security, which, for the first time, formalized a dedicated process under the UNFCCC, to address the nexus between food systems transformation and climate.

Despite this, more is needed for sure.

We call for increased attention to the specific needs of African coastal countries and Mediterranean countries, and this includes the marine conservation, the early warning systems and the infrastructure to adapt to sea-level rise.

At the same time, and as the international community moves to implement global frameworks such as the International Maritime Organization's GHG Strategy, it is essential

that we collectively address the capacity and equity gaps facing developing countries, including the potential impacts on trade, food security, and economic resilience.

We should also prioritize enhancing data collection systems, capacity-building initiatives, and technical support, along with equitable access to climate finance, to implement nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration, practical mechanisms that ensure developing countries can benefit from concessional financing, and strengthen early warning and monitoring systems, for oceans and coastal ecosystem health.

Thank you.
