

Ocean Action Panel on leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages

Speaking points (maximum 3 minutes; word count: 334 words)

- Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, thank you for the floor. It is my honor to speak on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- As the UN specialized agency for food and agriculture, FAO is committed to making aquatic food production more sustainable and climate-resilient. Through the Blue Transformation roadmap, FAO aims to achieve sustainable growth of aquaculture as an essential mechanism to adapt to climate change, effective management of 100% of fisheries, and upgrading of aquatic food value chains benefiting from circular economy principles.
- To turn this vision into reality, FAO provides evidence-based climate policy guidance, practical tools, and capacity building support to countries and communities. Through field projects, FAO is supporting more than 24 countries in implementing adaptation and mitigation solutions. To ensure the sector is embedded in national climate strategies, FAO has also developed guidelines on how to integrate fisheries and aquaculture into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- On the global stage, advancing the ocean-climate-biodiversity interlinkages requires a holistic and coordinated approach to maximize the benefits of global efforts, such as fostering continuity of discussions across key forums to prevent duplication and enhance policy coherence. Many solutions to enhance climate resilience rely on healthy biodiverse systems, and the connection between the two needs to be further explored and highlighted. For that, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), which is the sole global inter-governmental forum addressing major issues related to aquatic foods, has regularly included climate change and biodiversity as agenda items for discussion, as well as through its Sub-Committees. Additionally, FAO has established a Strategy on Climate Change and a Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, each supported by multi-year action plans.
- To conclude, this Ocean Action Panel offers a unique platform to unite diverse stakeholders in advancing integrated solutions for oceans, climate, and biodiversity - including in the aquatic food sector, and FAO is fully committed to collaborating with the co-chairs and all of you to make this collective effort a success.