

Intervention by Minister of Climate and the Environment Ms. Sari Multala, Finland

UNOC3, 9 June 2025

Ocean Action Panel 2: Increasing scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity development, technology, and education to strengthen the sciencepolicy interface for ocean health

Your Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to speak before you today on behalf of Finland—a nation whose identity, history, and future are deeply tied to water.

Science provides the information we need to fix the damage done to our oceans. But information alone is not enough—it must be connected to decision-making, to local knowledge, to communities, and to classrooms.

We have an active and capable marine scientific community in Finland. Our national consortium of coordinated marine research infrastructures enables high-impact marine science by providing access to state-of-the-art research facilities and data. One of our commitments to this Conference is to strengthen this consortium and further develop international marine research collaborations and networks fostering marine technology and we will be contributing 46 million US dollars' worth of work to this consortium between years 2025-2028.

Finland believes that international scientific cooperation is not a luxury—it is a necessity. Ocean systems do not recognize national borders. In the Baltic Sea, we have developed monitoring systems that are coordinated among the countries. We contribute data to open-access databases which are utilized for indicators and joint assessments of the state of the sea. These assessments serve our common actions in the region, such as the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

We are advancing globally a vision of ocean science supporting policy through initiatives like the UN Decade of Ocean Science. We find it important that globally we have dynamic and functional structures for science-policy interaction. We consider that the initiative for an International Platform for Ocean Sustainability, IPOS, has potential to become an important contributor to ocean health and its sustainable use.

Nationally, we have found that our science-policy panels for climate change and nature are valuable in advancing the general understanding and policy decisions. A new approach that we are testing for the first time, are citizen panels informed by scientists and policy makers.

Finally, education is where this work becomes enduring. We call on all nations to integrate marine literacy into national curricula. We also recognize that capacity development is key and we urge all to invest in skills.

Colleagues, our planet's future is blue. Let us work together to ensure that our science is strong, our policies informed, and our collective action bold.

Thank you.