

**THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**3<sup>RD</sup> UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE**

**OCEAN ACTION PANEL 1:**

**CONSERVING, SUSTAINABLY MANAGING, AND RESTORING MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING DEEP-SEA ECOSYSTEMS**

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**Honorable Chairperson,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Ghana is honored to contribute to this critical discussion on the conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, including deep-sea environments. As a coastal nation, the health of the marine ecosystem is directly linked to national food security, economic development and climate resilience.
2. However, like many nations, Ghana faces the challenge of overfishing, coastal erosion, pollution, and the growing impact of climate change on marine biodiversity. Ghana therefore has taken bold steps to protect its marine and coastal ecosystems, including:
  - i. Establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Ghana is working towards designating critical marine and coastal habitats as MPAs to safeguard biodiversity.
  - ii. Strengthening Fisheries Management: We have introduced several fisheries management measures such as Closed Fishing Season and moratorium for new marine canoe entry to allow fish stocks to replenish and ensure long-term sustainability. Ghana is also enforcing a directive on trawl specifications to prevent the catch of juvenile fish by trawl vessels.
  - iii. Enhancing fisheries governance through enforcement of fisheries laws and community participation in decision-making.
  - iv. Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing through strengthening enforcement, deploying monitoring technology, and working with regional partners to eliminate IUU fishing in our waters.

- v. To sustainably management fish stocks, curb illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and promoting sustainable fisheries management, Ghana has ratified WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
3. While Ghana remains committed to safeguarding its marine ecosystems, we emphasize the need for international cooperation and financial support to strengthen ocean conservation efforts. In this regard Ghana is taking steps toward the ratification of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and the High Seas Treaty.
4. Hon. Chair, Ghana calls for:
- i. Increased funding for developing nations to implement large-scale marine restoration projects.
  - ii. Technology transfer and capacity building to enhance ocean monitoring and marine governance.
  - iii. Stronger global action to regulate deep-sea mining and prevent irreversible damage to deep-sea ecosystems.
5. Ghana believes that conserving, sustainably managing, and restoring marine ecosystems is not just an environmental priority, but an economic and social necessity.
6. Thank you.