

**THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE**  
**OCEAN ACTION PANEL 7:**  
**LEVERAGING OCEAN, CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY INTERLINKAGES**

**Hon. Chairperson**  
**Your Excellencies,**  
**Distinguished delegates,**  
**Ladies and gentlemen**

1. The ocean is a vital regulator of the global climate, a lifeline for biodiversity, and a source of livelihoods for millions across the globe. Yet, climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss are pushing our marine ecosystems to the brink. Ghana recognizes that to achieve sustainable ocean governance, we must adopt an integrated approach that leverages the interconnections between the ocean, climate, and biodiversity.
2. To strengthen Ocean-Based Climate Action, we are promoting blue carbon initiatives by protecting and restoring mangroves, seagrasses, and coastal wetlands, which function as carbon sinks and natural defenses against climate impacts. Ghana is also enhancing marine biodiversity conservation through the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard critical habitats, ensuring the resilience of fish stocks and marine ecosystems. Additionally, we are collaborating with regional and global partners to address marine pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction, all of which pose significant threats to ocean biodiversity.
3. We are building resilient coastal ecosystems and communities by investing in nature-based solutions, such as coastal afforestation and habitat restoration, to reduce climate vulnerabilities in coastal areas. Through the Fisheries Co-Management Policy, we are empowering local fishing communities to actively participate in marine conservation and resource management, fostering sustainable practices and enhancing the health of marine ecosystems.
4. To promote science-policy integration for sustainable ocean management, Ghana is strengthening marine research and data collection to gain a deeper understanding of the ocean-climate-biodiversity dynamics. We emphasize the importance of inclusive ocean governance, ensuring that Indigenous

knowledge and community-based solutions are acknowledged and incorporated into policy frameworks.

5. Ghana urges the global community to:

- i. Accelerate financing for blue carbon ecosystems, recognizing their role in both climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation.
- ii. Strengthen ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies in global frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the High Seas Treaty.
- iii. Ensure equitable access to marine and climate adaptation resources, prioritizing vulnerable coastal nations and communities.
- iv. Increase climate financing and technology transfer to help developing nations harness ocean-based climate solutions.

6. We urge the full and swift implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with the goal of protecting at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. Additionally, we call for enhanced regional and international collaboration to ensure that ocean health is fully integrated into global climate and biodiversity negotiations.

7. Thank you.