

Statement by the Regular Process for Ocean Action Panel 6: Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Group of Experts of the UN Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects – I would like to contribute few points related to this discussion.

We are well into the final stages of the third cycle of the Regular Process for producing the World Ocean Assessment – which provides a comprehensive view of the state of global marine environment.

Not surprisingly, we are finding that all components – from the deepest to the shallowest parts - of the ocean are affected by climate change and human activities. Since the last World Ocean Assessment, we are finding that changes are occurring more rapidly than we thought.

Increases in global population, energy consumption, resource use and urbanisation and industrialisation are driving changes to the marine environment. Many of the benefits that humans derive from the ocean are at risk.

This very much applies to this discussion aiming for sustainable and equitable use of ocean resources.

Many societies, in some cases highly vulnerable communities, directly or indirectly depend on the ocean for their livelihoods or for food. They will need to adapt to the changes that have already taken place as well as those in the future.

Emerging trends such as rapidly increasing offshore renewable energy and increases in the numbers and size of ships will require careful technological development, as well as collaborative action and governance to minimise environmental degradation, reduced biodiversity and negative social consequences. The trick is to do this and still maintain societal benefits for everyone.

There are positive steps being taken globally. Fossil fuel use is being reduced, with new, cleaner, more globally friendly energy sources taking their place. There is increased inclusivity in governance and access to resources, promoting gender equality and reduced marginalisation of social or economic subsets of societies.

The results of the third World Ocean Assessment will be finalised in the coming months with more details available for you on this subject.

We trust that the results from World Ocean Assessments will assist policy makers globally. We plan to commence the 4th cycle of the Regular Process soon.

I am happy to talk about the Regular Process with anyone with questions in between sessions of this Conference.

Thank you.
