Statement by the Regular Process for Ocean Action Panel 7: Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the UN Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, and as Joint Coordinator of its Group of Experts that lead the Third World Ocean Assessment which will be submitted for consideration and approval to the United Nations General Assembly by the end of the year.

The ocean is part of the Earth's climate system. Although climate change is driven by the release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, the ocean has absorbed 25% of the excess carbon dioxide released by human activity and more than 90% of the excess of heat provoked by this process. The ocean will play a critical role in the evolution of climate change in the next decades and, unfortunately, for centuries.

Furthermore, biological processes in marine ecosystems store and significantly contribute to medium- and long-term carbon sequestration, mitigate the effects of sea level rise or storm surges in coastal communities and provide economic, social and cultural services and benefits, including those for traditional and indigenous communities. However, climate change, together with other anthropogenic stressors such as marine pollution, are causing and unprecedented biodiversity crisis that is putting ocean resources, services and benefits at risk, hampering in turn their potential contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Regular Process is the global mechanism accountable to the United Nations General Assembly, which regularly provides a scientific assessment of the environmental, economic and social state of the world's ocean. The Regular Process, in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service, provide scientific evidence on the ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages, including their economic, social and cultural consequences, and enhance the scientific basis for policymaking.

Thank you.