

Thank you president

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to France and Costa Rica, along with our UN colleagues, for convening this vital gathering for a sustainable ocean. This Third UN Ocean Conference has been an invaluable opportunity to witness the strong commitment of numerous nations towards the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement and to share our collective will for urgent ocean action.

Now, as we look ahead, our next stage, UNOC4 represents a pivotal moment: it's time to discuss how we will cooperate on concrete actions, what resources we will mobilize, and which best practices we will draw upon to implement these crucial initiatives.~

In addition, the year 2028 holds particular significance, as it comes just two years before the 2030 target year for the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be a crucial moment to take stock of our collective efforts to date, discuss additional actions needed in the final stretch, and begin shaping the post-2030 agenda for our sustainable ocean.

Recognizing the importance of this moment, as our Head of Delegation stated in the plenary on Tuesday, the Republic of Korea, together with the Republic of Chile, stand ready to co-host the 4th UN Ocean Conference in 2028. Korea is committed to ensure that UNOC4 is a well-prepared, impactful and enjoyable conference that will gather all of us together and advance global ocean actions.

We kindly request the support of all Member States in this endeavor. Merci. Thank you very much.