

Thank you chair.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, delegates,

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO would like to reiterate the intimate connectivity between the ocean, climate and biodiversity and the urgency with which we all must respond to the changes that are occurring in the ocean and to its biodiversity as a result of human activities, including climate change. Maintaining the integrity of the ocean and its ecosystems is essential for all life on Earth. Inadequate climate action, together with other unmanaged anthropogenic impacts, exacerbates the deterioration of the state of the ocean and its biodiversity and diminishes the ocean's ability to adapt to and mitigate future climate change impacts and provide the goods and services all of society benefits from. Further it undermines the cultural connections people have with the ocean, many of which span 10s of thousands of years.

Understanding the ocean, the ways in which climate change are altering the ocean, the responses of biodiversity and the role that both have in mitigating climate change is a core part of the programmatic activities of the IOC. The IOC is coordinating global ocean observations to track change and is the custodian of the Sustainable Development Goal indicator that identifies increasing ocean acidification. We support international collaborations building global models to understand ocean change now and into the future, facilitate the sharing of data and knowledge on the ocean and its biodiversity, including through regular assessments of the State of the Ocean. We bring expertise focused on blue carbon ecosystems together to develop innovative nature positive financial frameworks and tools that recognize the value of blue carbon ecosystems and their climate change mitigation potential and we deliver programs that build capacity in the ocean science that contributes to those programs and supports increasing the connections between society to the ocean and its biodiversity. Alignment of ocean, climate and biodiversity actions that leverage SDG 14 and its interlinkages with the majority of other Sustainable Development Goals, are critical for addressing continued decline in the state of the ocean. Ocean science is the foundational element that can connect the many disciplines that are needed to come together to deliver effective and applicable solutions across various scales.