

INTERVENTION NOTES BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, HIS EXCELLENCY DR EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA, DURING OCEAN ACTION PANEL 10: ENHANCING THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF OCEANS AND THEIR RESOURCES BY IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL LAW, AS REFLECTED IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA: 13 JUNE 2025

Thank you, Chair,

At the outset, I wish to convey our appreciation for the convening of this session.

The effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is vital to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its interconnected targets. It provides the legal basis for cooperation, conservation, and the sustainable use of marine resources. To scale up ocean action, we must ensure that the Convention's provisions are translated into practical, inclusive, and science-based policies at all levels.

Oceans cannot be governed in silos. Integrated, cross-sectoral action, linking fisheries, biodiversity, shipping, and climate change, is vital to effective implementation. The designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas by the International Maritime Organisation and advancements under the Convention on Biological Diversity demonstrate the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration. Zimbabwe calls for better coordination between environmental, trade, and scientific institutions to ensure coherent implementation of international law.

Chairperson,

The United Nations system plays a critical role in building capacity, sharing knowledge, and facilitating implementation of international law, and must therefore; continue to support Member States in this endeavour. Zimbabwe encourages sustained investment in the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, and welcomes the work being done to produce the Third World Ocean Assessment, which will guide future decisions on ocean

health. Continued technical and policy assistance must prioritise the needs of developing, landlocked and vulnerable countries.

Zimbabwe also supports harmonising the implementation of UNCLOS with the BBNJ Agreement, CITES, the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Targets to conserve 30% of marine areas by 2030 and to reverse biodiversity loss align with UNCLOS Part 12 obligations. Consequently, unified action across instruments will generate more durable and inclusive outcomes.

Chair,

It is common cause that capacity and resources are critical for implementation of UNCLOS. For many developing nations, including landlocked states, the barriers to effective implementation include lack of financial resources, access to technology, and skilled human capital. Zimbabwe supports increased financing for marine science and legal technical training, particularly through innovative, South-South and triangular cooperation.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe believes that science, technology, and innovation must drive ocean governance. New tools that include satellite-based monitoring and open-access marine data can transform how we implement the law of the sea. Zimbabwe encourages partnerships for technological transfer and access to digital ocean tools, as outlined under Part 14 of UNCLOS and the BBNJ Agreement.

I thank you