



Date: 22 / 6 / 2022

**Division for Sustainable Development Goals
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

Respected Sir,

I am pleased to submit this written statement in connection with UN Ocean Conference 2022.

The ocean covers 70 percent of the Earth's surface, which is fundamental to life on our planet and in our future. It is an important source of the planet's biodiversity and plays a vital role in the climate system and water cycle, supplies us with oxygen to breathe, contributes to food security, nutrition, and to decent jobs and livelihoods. It acts as a sink and reservoir of greenhouse gases and protects biodiversity, provides a means for maritime transportation, forms an important part of our natural and cultural heritage; interlink ages and synergies between Goal 14 and the other Sustainable Development Goals.

Climate changes is one of the greatest challenges in this phenomenon and are alarmed by the adverse effects on the ocean and marine life, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, whilst driving resilient, effective and robust solutions to overcome the risks posed to our ocean including fish, decrease in marine biodiversity, as well as, coastal erosion, etc. It also acts in mapping the ocean, observations, ecosystem knowledge, data and information work, disaster risk reduction, ocean literacy, education, and other numerous applications of ocean science.

Pollution entering our oceans from both ends by man-made and natural activities affecting marine ecosystems throughout the world. The marine environment becomes polluted and contaminated through various sources and forms. Major sources of marine pollution are the inflow of chemicals, solid waste, discharge of radioactive elements, industrial and agricultural effluents, oil spills, etc. The major portion of the marine pollution comes from the land which contributes nearly 80 percent, air pollution also carries pesticides from farms and dust into the marine waters, which is not only hampering the aquatic ecology, affecting the life on land.

The rising levels of plastic dumps found in the oceans are suffocating, dangerous for the marine life, consisting 80 percent of the debris found in the oceans, ingesting, and entangling the life underwater as well as above it. 415

Devastating impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the ocean-based economy and threat to ocean health exacerbated the problem of marine plastic litter and micro plastics and in particular the small island developing states adversely affects the ocean-based economy. Strengthen the science-policy interface for implementing Goal 14 and its targets, to ensure that policy is informed by the best-available science and relevant traditional knowledge, and to highlight policies and actions which may be scalable, including Socioeconomic Aspects.

The significant role of traditional and local knowledge, innovation and practices held by indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of social science in planning, decision-making and implementation,

Empowerment of women and girls, as their equal participation is key in progressing towards a sustainable ocean-based economy and to achieving Goal 14, and mainstreams a gender perspective in our work to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources

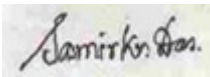
The people, especially children and youth, are empowered with relevant knowledge and skills enable them to understand the importance of and the need to contribute to the health of the ocean, including in decision-making, through promoting and supporting quality education and life-long learning for ocean literacy.

A healthy, productive and resilient ocean is our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources which is important source of the planet's biodiversity and plays a vital role in the climate system and water

cycle for our planet, our lives and our future. We call upon all stakeholders to take ambitious and concerted action to accelerate implementation to achieve Goal 14 by 2030.

I shall be very much obliged for your sympathetic consideration to publish our written statement in your esteemed publication. Your cooperation and help is our progress and the way of our work, without this ladder we cannot find our destination.

With best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background, reading "Samir Kumar Das".

Samir Kumar Das
Chairman