



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**New York**

**Input on Elements of a “Call for Action”**

**Preparatory Meeting on the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14**

**H.E. Ms. Amatlain E. Kabua**

**Ambassador & Permanent Representative of  
the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations**

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*check against delivery*

Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Republic of the Marshall Islands aligns itself with the statements of Maldives on behalf of AOSIS, the Federated States of Micronesia on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, and the Republic of Nauru on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States.

Co-Chairs,

I have three key points to contribute for consideration in the “Call for Action.”

First, we hope that the “Call for Action” will be exactly that – a sharp and focused document which is truly “readable” by a public audience. We already have a rich pagent of international outcomes on sustainable oceans and fisheries, and the key to changing course on global oceans is improved action, not repetition. It is important that we clearly recognize the state of crisis, and commit to addressing it through stronger commitment, implementation and partnership.

Second, it is vital that the “Call for Action” fully recognize the cross-cutting and interdependent nature of sustainable oceans and fisheries. For too long, global oceans and fisheries have been left as “silos” and have not been adequately mainstreamed into larger decision-making, including macro-economic planning, or other SDGs such as food security or industrialization. Our respective treaties, instruments and outcomes often tell us all only the legal architecture of “what we *can* do” without enough action on wider policies to help us achieve “what we *should* do.” Our June high-level meeting is not an oceans meeting – it is a meeting on sustainable development and oceans, and we expect the “Call to Action” to capture the necessary interlinkeages across the SDGs and the international development agenda, with direct attention to the role of stakeholders including the private sector.

Third, and finally, it is also imperative that the “Call for Action” directly recognize the unique and transformative impact of oceans and fisheries upon our economy, society and culture as SIDS. Unlike many other governments, oceans and fisheries isn't just an isolated sector or segment – it is nearly everything we have. Our whole economies can easily rise – or fall – based on these outcomes.

Of course, we also expect the “Call for Action” will reflect the wider impact and potential for the entire world, including the unique challenges and opportunities for other groupings. Indeed, SIDS ourselves cannot alone transform global oceans – partnership and common cause of action is key. But it is also critical that the “call for action” adequately reflect our unique circumstance as “large ocean” and “small island” nations – that much more than many others, our basic progress, core national development, and our very identity as island peoples rests directly on achieving stronger progress.

Thank you and kommol tata