

**Statement by Germany to the Preparatory Meeting for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, New York 4-5 February 2020.**

Dear Madame / Mr Co-Chair

1. Germany aligns itself with the statement presented by the European Union and its Member States and wishes to express a few complementary points.
2. We fully support the assessment by the Secretary General that “existing actions for the implementation of SDG14 are insufficient”. The decisions taken in the next ten years will be crucial for achieving Ocean health and the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon now comes at a critical juncture on the road towards 2030.
3. This delegation therefore suggests that the 2020 UN Ocean Conference should also address a couple of urgent overarching issues in the conference resolution that will complement the conference’s main theme and that will be crucial for the further implementation of SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda:
  - As other delegations have pointed out already, in 2020 a number of targets under SDG14 will expire that will not be reached. We believe it is high time, therefore, to discuss the fate of these targets. Possible options may include extension of timelines for the relevant targets or their replacement by new targets. This conference should now discuss concrete steps towards renewed targets that could then be further considered and agreed by the HLPF. This should also include an approach how to take account relevant new targets, arising from other processes such as the CBD's post-2020 biodiversity framework.
  - To better assess progress in achieving SDG14 targets through the implementation of voluntary commitments this delegation suggest establishing a robust global pledge and review approach for SDG14 that links the global targets with commitments and baseline data. The existing registries of voluntary commitments under the UN Ocean conference would lend itself as a strong starting point. An initial focal issue for such an approach could be target 14.5 on Marine Protected Areas for which well-established global baselines data and well-measurable targets are available, currently 10% by 2020 or as discussed in the future 30% by 2030).
  - Regional cooperation has proven to be an effective enabler for marine environmental protection, as demonstrated recently at the Marine Regions Forum 2019. The 2020 UN Ocean Conference should therefore aim to provide guidance for an accelerated implementation of SDG14 through transboundary and cross-sectoral cooperation within marine regions, e.g. regional targets, action plans and tailor-made measures. Key messages on the role of marine regions prepared by the organizers of the Marine Regions Forum will be shared with other delegations for information.
  - Finally, this delegation proposes a better alignment of the UN Regular Process and the resulting World Ocean Assessments with SDG14 implementation so

that it could provide a policy-relevant and targeted state assessment on the way towards 2030. This delegation proposes that the UN Ocean Conference declares a specific commitment to streamline these relevant global processes and, as appropriate, also coordinate the World Ocean Assessment closely with other assessment processes with relevance for the ocean such as those by IPBES and IPCC.

4. In closing let me assure you, dear Madame / Mister Co-Chair, the full support of this delegation for the further preparatory process of this important UN Ocean Conference.