



Preparatory meeting for the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

4 February 2020

Statement by The Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations

Statement 1

The proposed partnerships dialogues

When we meet in Lisbon for the UN Ocean Conference, we need to recognize the development that has taken place since the last UN Conference, both the progress and the lack thereof. It should be our common goal to contribute to more ambitious actions for the role of the ocean in implementing not just SDG 14, but a majority of the SDGs, including those relating to poverty, hunger, climate, biodiversity, and gender equality.

From the Norwegian side, we support the proposed eight partnership dialogues as they have been presented and we are ready to play a role at the Conference.

A few comments connected to some of the suggested dialogues:

- o Dialogue 2: Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.

Ecosystem-based integrated ocean management is key to ensure healthy and functioning marine and coastal ecosystems. Marine spatial planning and marine protected areas can be tools to achieve this, as well as more sector-based approaches that rely on common scientific advice and other effective area-based conservation measures.

- o Dialogue 8: Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The link between SDG 14 and other SDGs, especially those relating to hunger, food security, energy, health and climate change, is crucial. It is also the foundation for Prime Minister Erna Solberg's initiative to establish a High-level Panel on a Sustainable Ocean Economy. We would thus strongly support to include such a partnership dialogue during the Lisbon conference.

o Dialogue 6: Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology.

Knowledge needs to be at the basis of our actions in order to achieve SDG 14, and we need to enhance research impact through global sharing of knowledge. We must join forces to accelerate the transition to universal open access by transforming today's scholarly journals, currently locked behind paywalls, to open access. There is an obvious link between the UN Ocean Conference and the Decade for ocean research, and such a dialogue will provide an opportunity to underline important input from UNOC to the preparations for the Decade.



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Statement 2

Thank you to the Secretariat and the co-chairs for the preparations for this meeting.

The theme of the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon is “Scaling up ocean action”. And that is what we need to do.

A sustainable ocean economy is critical to achieve the Agenda 2030. Production, protection and prosperity can go hand in hand if we sustainably manage and protect the ocean. The world is not there today. We are failing on the targets of SDG14 - the ocean is in crisis due to climate change, marine pollution, loss of biodiversity and overfishing. But the oceans also holds many of the solutions to these challenges, as was shown in the report on “The ocean as a solution to Climate change.”

The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy consists of the presidents and prime ministers of Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau and Portugal. The High Level Panel will present its message at the Lisbon conference.

In Lisbon we need to address both progress, or lack thereof, in implementing the SDG 14. This is of particular urgency when it comes to the maturing sub-targets on eliminating IUU fishing and fisheries subsidies and ocean and coastal zone management. To achieve this we need to be innovative. And our actions needs to be science-based.

Norway would like to see a strong outcome document which affirms:

(Check against delivery)

o The Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.

o The vital role of the oceans for the climate, biodiversity, poverty eradication and food security. The declaration should reflect the latest findings of the IPCC, including in its special report on the Ocean and Cryosphere.

The declaration should recognize:

- the importance of a sustainable ocean economy, for the achievement of SDG 14 and many of the other SDGs including those relating to poverty, hunger, climate, biodiversity, and gender equality.
- The UN Decade of Ocean Science as a unique opportunity for the global community, and highlight the need for strengthened ocean research and a science-based ocean management.
- That innovation in a broad sense, including innovation in governance, finance and technologies offer unprecedented potential to improve stewardship of ocean resources and ensure resilient and productive ecosystems.
- International cooperation and strong mechanisms for capacity building is important to put all states in a position to benefit from a sustainable ocean economy and utilize best available knowledge and new technology.
- The need for a more coordinated approach through a global framework for action to combat marine litter and microplastics as a key measure to protect our oceans and the marine environment. In our view, the UN Ocean Conference can contribute to leverage synergies by pointing to the need for a new global agreement.

The declaration should highlight the need to strengthen partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. The global business community can play a significant role in ensuring that ocean resources are used in a sustainable manner for our common good.