

BRAZIL'S STATEMENT — INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE
ZERO DRAFT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED
DECLARATION OF THE UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by
the G-77 and China.

At the outset, Brazil would like to thank you,
Ambassador Ngedikes Olai Uludong and Ambassador
Martin Bille Hermann, for your excellent work in this
process. We commend you for presenting to Members
States a good starting point for a brief and concise
intergovernmentally agreed declaration, in line with
resolution 73/292.

As a general principle for our work on this zero draft,
Brazil believes that all elements of the declaration
should be based on multilaterally agreed language, in
order to avoid misunderstandings and
counterproductive discussions in this preparatory
process. Given that the main objective of the
Conference is to support the implementation of SDG14,
we should guide ourselves by the conceptual framework
provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development.

In this sense, Brazil cannot accept the reference to
"Nature Based-Solutions" (NBS) in paragraph 10,
subparagraph e. There is no common understanding of
what NBS means or entails, as it lacks a multilateral
definition. In fact, one cannot find a single
reference to NBS in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development.

Another important adjustment in subparagraph 10(e)

would be the deletion of "carbon sequestration", since the IPCC's *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* states that there is only "medium confidence" in carbon uptake and storage strategies (e.g. restoration of vegetated coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrass meadows) as a way of providing climate change mitigation.

In paragraph 4, Brazil requests the deletion of the reference of setting new targets for SDG14, as this would exceed the mandate of the Conference, interfere in the follow-up process of the 2030 Agenda and hamper the mandate of the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development.

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

Brazil believes that the declaration should be more action-oriented. Thus, strengthening the language related to capacity building and transfer of marine technology will be of paramount importance, as concrete solutions for the achievement of SDG 14 will depend mainly on the availability of its means of implementation. This includes enhancing international cooperation, technical assistance and access to research infrastructure, as well as the transfer of marine technologies.

In particular, the declaration should expressly reflect the need of addressing the gaps in knowledge and capacity-building identified in the World Oceans Assessment through the development of new financial solutions to support marine scientific research and ocean observing systems. Such solutions could support important national and multilateral initiatives, such as, for example, IOC-UNESCO's Global Ocean Observing System, a global network that collects real time data

on the state of the ocean.

We would like to express our strong support for paragraph 7, which reaffirms the centrality of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea as the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. In this context, we also support the language of paragraph 8 on the importance of the work undertaken to conclude the BBNJ Agreement.

Finally, Brazil would like to reiterate its support for highlighting the interlinkages between SDG 14 and other Goals, including SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns).

It is of paramount importance to recognize that the sustainable management of fisheries is key in ensuring food and nutritional security. In this vein, prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminating subsidies that contribute to IUU fish, and concluding negotiations to adopt an agreement on fisheries subsidies at the World Trade Organization (target 14.6) are fundamental measures that should be duly reflected in the declaration.

Brazil will remain supportive of this process and looks forward to continue contributing constructively to the informal consultations on the draft declaration.

I thank you.