



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR
ANTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE DECLARATION FOR 2020 UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14**

REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR

STATEMENT

New York, March 19, 2020

Mr. Co-Facilitators, Excellencies and distinguished delegates:

The Republic of El Salvador aligns itself with the statement made by G77 + China and in national capacity, my delegation wishes to express the following:

Pursuant to resolution A/RES/71/312 adopted by the General Assembly on July 6, 2017, El Salvador wishes to reaffirm the relevance of oceans as fundamental elements for life on our planet and our future. In this regard, it is highly important to work towards the protection of their sustainability, including the need to reduce plastic pollution as it continues to enter the ocean at an alarming rate.

In order to do so, my delegation endorses that the implementation of Goal 14 should be in accordance with, reinforce and not duplicate or undermine, existing legal instruments, arrangements, processes, mechanisms or entities that enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources as it is outlined in paragraph 11 of the aforementioned resolution.

On that basis, El Salvador would like to specifically refer to the language reflected in paragraph 7 of the Zero Draft Declaration "*Our ocean, our future, our responsibility*", enclosed in

the letter addressed to the President of the General Assembly in the context of the preparatory process and intergovernmental consultations.

The content of such paragraph, as it is, states that: “we reaffirm that the Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out”. In this regard, El Salvador considers that the proposed language does not represent the different legal positions of Member States, particularly, those who are not part of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Therefore, in order to respect the general framework of existing instruments and processes outlined in paragraph 11 of resolution A/RES/71/312, we kindly request that paragraph 7 reflects an alternative and more inclusive wording such as the following underlined text: “*We reaffirm that the international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and **other relevant international instruments**, sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.*”

My delegation approves the inclusion of this underlined phrase as for it reflects the legal position of El Salvador and also refers to other sources of international law which are applicable to obligations concerning oceans and seas activities, specially those aimed at ensuring their sustainability.

Finally, El Salvador would like to express its support and willingness to continue the negotiations on this political declaration from which we are convinced that would contribute to a better action-oriented process for the implementation of sustainable development goal 14.

Thank you.