



Statement

by the

Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations

to the

**United Nations Second Ocean Conference Intergovernmental Consultations on
the Declaration for 2020 UN Conference to support the implementation of
Sustainable Development Goal 14**

at the Seventy-fourth Session

18 March 2020, New York

"Check against delivery"

Co-Facilitators, Excellencies and distinguished delegates;

It is most unfortunate that the unprecedented evolving dynamic and perilous public health circumstances surrounding the advent of the Coronavirus has made it impractical for the Informal Consultations to take place as scheduled and my delegation fully supports the decision taken to submit proposals online.

Notwithstanding this format for consultations, my delegation is pleased to share our proposals on the Zero Draft of the Declaration for the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

At the outset, let me note that you have our confidence and trust to deliver a strong, focused and forward-looking outcome document, commensurate with the guidance and support from Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

Co-Facilitators, we align our delegation's remarks with those made by Guyana as Chair of the Group of 77 and China, Fiji on behalf of the Pacific SIDS, Tuvalu as Pacific Islands Forum Chair and Belize on behalf of AOSIS. In our national capacity we would like to add the following points.

1. In Paragraph 1, where the first sentence ends with "reaffirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources" we propose adding "**for sustainable development**" at the end. This is to conform the language to Goal 14 as well as the 2017 Call for Action. This same comment applies to paragraph 11(f) where the phrase "for sustainable development" should be added to the end of that subparagraph.
2. In paragraph 4, in the second sentence that reads "Sea levels are rising, the ocean is warmer and more acidic" we propose tweaking it to read "Sea levels are rising, the ocean is warmer, more acidic **and losing oxygen.**" Ocean deoxygenation is one of the major climate change threats facing the ocean, as indeed recognized by paragraph 5.
3. In paragraph 10(a), we propose changing "minimize" to "**minimizing**" as a grammatical suggestion.
4. In paragraph 10(b), which is on fisheries, in the phrase "communication tools and other technological tools for monitoring and tracking" we propose tweaking it to reflect the terminology used in fisheries management which is "**monitoring, control and surveillance.**" This terminology is reflected in G.A. resolution 74/18 on sustainable fisheries adopted on 10 December 2019 (see paragraphs 21, 81, 110, 113, 122, 206 and 237).
5. In paragraph 10(d), after the phrase "area-based management tools, including marine protected areas" we propose adding "**consistent with international law and in accordance with national legislation.**" While we understand the provision focuses on science and innovation, we believe that this addition is helpful to avoid any misunderstanding, and it also conforms with paragraph 13(j) of the 2017 Call for Action.

6. Co-Facilitators, while we appreciate the reference in paragraph 10(e) to “nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration” we propose expanding that to include “**and enhancing resilience**” so that nature-based solutions would not be limited to carbon sequestration (mitigation) but also include building resilience (adaptation).

7. While we appreciate the reference to “preparing for ocean-related extreme weather events” in paragraph 10(e), we propose a reference to “**coordinated early warning systems**” (which is referenced in paragraph 13(f) of the 2017 Call for Action) as well as a reference to “**recovery**” so that the provision is not limited to preparedness but also includes post-event recovery.

8. In paragraph 11(e), we propose the following tweaks that appear in bold and underscoring:

"Recognize the important complementary role of traditional knowledge, **innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities which should be respected, protected and maintained**, as well as the role of social science in planning, decision-making and implementation," (see article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and paragraph 117 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda).

9. In paragraph 11(i) after “best available science” we propose the insertion of “**and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge**” (see Paris Agreement, article 7, paragraph 5).

Finally, we have two general comments, as follows, for which we have the trust and confidence in the Co-facilitators to reflect in the revised draft, as appropriate.

1. There are no references to the cultural importance of the ocean in this draft. In the 2017 Call for Action, there was a reference to “cultural heritage” in paragraph 3 and a reference to “cultural significance” in paragraph 13(d). Thus, we propose the inclusion of references to both “**cultural heritage**” and “**cultural significance**” in this document.

2. There is no reference to the SAMOA Pathway in this draft. In the 2017 Call for Action, the SAMOA Pathway was referenced in paragraph 12. Thus, we propose the inclusion of a reference to **the SAMOA Pathway** in this document.

In closing, Co-Facilitators, my delegation is committed to continue engaging constructively in these discussions, and we also reassure you of our continued support in this process.

Thank you.

