

**Statement to be delivered in the first informal consultations on the  
declaration for the 2020 United Nations Conference to support  
the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14**

Turkey would like to thank the co-facilitators for their work in overseeing the preparatory process and the intergovernmental consultations on the declaration for the 2020 United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 is a milestone in our collective commitment to protect our environment. It provides us with a bold map to guide our policy and action in conservation, development, sustainable use and effective management of oceans, seas and marine resources. Turkey has taken every effort to improve its policy framework to effectively implement the SDG14-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. We have integrated these targets into a wide range of policy documents including the National Development Plan, the Climate Change Strategy and the Marine Research Strategy Document. We have also put in effect important legislative measures to protect marine ecosystems and to prevent pollution and waste.

The 2020 United Nations Conference will provide the international community with another invaluable opportunity to continue our dialogue and enhance international cooperation as regards the implementation of SDG 14. Turkey is ready to contribute to this Conference, starting with the process of finalizing the draft declaration.

With regard to Paragraph 7 of the draft declaration, concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Turkey considers it crucial that previously agreed language in this regard is preserved and respected. Both Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Target 14.C) and the declaration entitled “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action” adopted in 2017, refer to UNCLOS as providing “*the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources*”. The declaration for the upcoming conference, which aims to support the implementation of SDG 14, should reflect the same wording, and should not contain non-consensus based language. This would also be in line with the intent of the co-facilitators to avoid renegotiating the agreements that were reached in 2017, as expressed in their letter of 13 March 2020.

With regard to Paragraph 8 of the draft declaration, concerning the work undertaken by the intergovernmental conference to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, Turkey proposes that the phrase “*We recognize*” be replaced with the phrase “*We consider*” or “*We take note of*”, taking into consideration the ongoing nature of the concerned process.

We thank the co-facilitators for their commitment to ensuring an open, inclusive and transparent process in finalizing this important document. We look forward to a fruitful outcome, that is a brief, concise and action-oriented declaration to be adopted by consensus, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 73/292.