

## **UAE statement on Ocean Conference zero-draft**

16 March, 2020

Excellencies, colleagues,

The UAE would like to thank the co-facilitators for the zero draft, as well as for convening us today. We align with the statement of the G77 and China and would like to raise four points in our national capacity.

First, we believe it is very important to signal voluntary higher ambition on ocean conservation. We would ask for the declaration to reference the intention of some Member States, including the UAE, to preserve 30% of land and sea by 2030.

Second, we would ask for an explicit commitment to include youth in decision-making around ocean resource management. Paragraph 11 g is a good start, but it can be more ambitious. We need to move beyond education alone to meaningful inclusion and empowerment.

Third, while we were happy to see language on gender mainstreaming in Paragraph 11 f, we would suggest that explicit reference be made to the critical importance of women in leadership positions.

Fourth, we would ask for the declaration to include a commitment toward scaling up community-centered conservation. This would recognize the centrality of local communities and their well-being to successful preservation of our oceans.

Thank you again.