

**STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA AT  
THE PREPARATORY MEETING ON THE 2020 UN OCEAN  
CONFERENCE**

(NEW YORK, 4-5 FEBRUARY 2020)

OPENING

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. Let me begin by expressing the Group's full support and commitment to this process, recognizing the importance of conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources in advancing the 2030 Agenda. Following the success of the first UN Ocean Conference in 2017, it is critical to maintain the momentum towards achieving the targets set out in SDG 14.
3. In this regard, we thank the Governments of Portugal and Kenya for taking the initiative to host the 2020 UN Ocean Conference. Rest assured that the Group of 77 and China will exhaust all efforts to make this Conference a success. We encourage all Member States to participate in the Conference at the highest possible level. We see this as an opportunity to re-commit to existing agreements, and forge new levels of ambition.
4. We extend our gratitude to you, co-facilitators, for taking on this important role. We are confident that your leadership and guidance will deliver strong outcomes from the Conference. The Group looks forward to constructively

engaging in the discussions considering the themes for the interactive dialogues, as well as the declaration for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

5. The timing for the Conference is significant, as we are about to commence the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030. The overarching theme for the Conference **“Scaling up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions.”** We believe that the leadership dialogues and the declaration of the Conference should be guided by this theme.
6. We would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the support that the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea is providing in the organization of the Conference.
7. 2020 is a significant year in determining the future of our Ocean, with just a decade left to achieve SDG 14. We will strive to work collectively to ensure that this Conference delivers the results that we need; not only to address the challenges facing the Ocean, but also to utilize the opportunities that are offered.

I thank you.