

Preparatory Meeting for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference

4-5 February, UNHQ, New York

UNFCCC secretariat statement

- Co-facilitators, ladies and gentlemen
- Colleagues have emphasised strongly yesterday and today the strong links between the ocean and climate change – and the science was comprehensively assessed by the IPCC in their special report on ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate published last year.
- Action on climate change is vital as part of the commitments to SDG14 as well as being vital to SDG13, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.
- There are strong linkages between responding to climate change and SDG14, particularly in regards to protection of ecosystems (14.2 and 14.5), responding to ocean acidification (14.3) and increasing scientific knowledge (14.A).
- Ocean is a cross-cutting issue under the UNFCCC process. It is vital our response to climate change includes the ocean and efforts continue to:
 - Urgently reduce fossil fuel emissions to net zero to limit further ocean temperature rise and acidification
 - Consider all opportunities for building and supporting ocean- and coastal-zone related resilience, based on the best available science to co-produce solutions. This includes for Parties to build opportunities via Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans as well as how to measure long-term progress including through the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement
- The UNFCCC secretariat is committed to supporting Parties in their work under the Convention and Paris Agreement. This includes to
 - Coordinate ocean-related work under the Convention
 - Coordinate knowledge sharing internally and externally to promote coherence
 - Liaise with other UN agencies to support action, including in the context of the UN Ocean Conference and the UN Decade on Ocean Science
- As an outcome from COP 25 – the COP mandated for an ocean dialogue at the fifty second sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 52) in June (this dialogue will likely take place on Monday 8 June 2020). The dialogue will be convened by the chair of the SBSTA. The dialogue will consider:
 - How to strengthen mitigation and adaptation action on the ocean and climate change
 - Parties and non-Party stakeholders are invited to provide submissions to inform the dialogue by 31 March 2020.
 - We invite the co-facilitators to consider that part of the output from the ocean conference could be an input into the ocean and climate change dialogue under the UNFCCC.
- Thank you for your attention.