



## **Annotated Draft - Third UN Ocean Conference Declaration – REV2**

By the [Varda Group](#) on behalf of associated stakeholders of [Let's Be Nice to the Ocean](#)

**9 April 2025**

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## Introduction

On 13 December 2024, the United Nations released a zero draft of the Nice Ocean Action Declaration, triggering a wide range of feedback from UN Member States and civil society. A first revised version (Rev1) began circulating in February 2025, reflecting limited but important updates.

Following an online discussion on 5 February 2025 with stakeholders associated to Let's Be *Nice* to the Ocean, we have now compiled their inputs and adapted them to the **second revision (Rev2)**, which circulated in April 2025.

While most contributions were based on the original zero draft, they remain highly relevant. Where views converge, we have retained or merged proposals to reflect the diversity and depth of engagement. Inputs responding to the current draft are highlighted in the text. **This compilation underscores the shared commitment to an ambitious and actionable Nice Ocean Declaration and Action Plan.**

Any errors or misinterpretations are ours alone.

The ocean is our present, our future—and our shared responsibility.

Coordination [Let's Be \*Nice\* to the Ocean](#)

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## Our ocean, our future: urgently accelerating action

- 1 We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, meeting in Nice from 9 – 13 June 2025 at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the full participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, reaffirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use our ocean, seas and marine resources.
- 1bis We reaffirm the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in Lisbon, from the 27 June to 1 July 2022, and the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future, call for action”, adopted by the Conference held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017.
- 2 The ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future. We share one ocean, and we remain gravely concerned with the global emergency it faces including from the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Action is not advancing at the speed or scale required to meet SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda. A healthy, productive and resilient ocean is essential for a sustainable ocean economy, food security, and climate stability, and underpins deep cultural and social connections. We must act with urgency to face this challenge with bold, ambitious, human and nature rights-based, just, ethical and transformative action, and ensure all people, including women and girls, persons with disabilities, youth, , persons in vulnerable situations Indigenous Peoples and local communities are fully, meaningfully empowered and included in ocean-related decision-making as appropriate.
- 3 We emphasize that our actions to implement SDG 14 should be in accordance with, reinforce and not duplicate or undermine existing legal instruments, arrangements, processes, mechanisms or entities. We affirm the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, and its resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want. We recognise the importance of UNCLOS to advancing sustainable development and its near universal adoption by States, as recalled in paragraph 159 of The Future We Want, and in this regard we urge all its parties to fully implement their obligations under UNCLOS, specifically the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment.
- 4 We recall the Pact for the Future including the recognition of the urgent need for a fundamental shift in our approach in order to achieve a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and our decision to take ambitious action to protect, conserve, sustainably use and restore the ocean and its

ecosystems. We encourage States to explore and implement approaches that recognize and respect diverse value systems and concepts, including eco-centric actions and non-market-based approaches, in line with Section C and H of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

### *Conserving ocean ecosystems*

- 5 We stress the ocean plays an essential role in mitigating the impacts of climate change, including through ocean-based adaptation and resilience. We are deeply concerned that the ability of the ocean and its ecosystems to act as a climate regulator mitigator has been weakened by the adverse impacts of climate change including ocean warming, ocean acidification and the slowdown of ocean circulation, compounded and accelerated by marine pollution, biodiversity loss, overfishing, eutrophication and deoxygenation.
- 6 We underline the importance of interlinkages between the ocean, climate and biodiversity and commit to urgent, ambitious, enhanced, effective and coordinated global action to minimise the impact of climate change on the health of the ocean, its species and its ecosystems as well as coastal communities, including those who rely on the ocean for their food and livelihoods.

6bis We emphasize the particular importance of implementing the Paris Agreement<sup>1</sup>, including the goal to limit the temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, and help ensure the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and thus our future. We welcome and fully subscribe to the ambitious and balanced outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conferences in Sharm el-Sheikh (COP27), in particular the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, in Dubai (COP28), in particular the UAE Consensus and its first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement (GST-1), and in Baku (COP29), in particular on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance. We welcome the convening of the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue through the UN Climate Change Conferences [*co-facilitators' proposal for updated UNOC2 PD paragraph 6, reflecting Climate COPs held since 2022*].

6ter We reaffirm our commitment to transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, and call for the prohibition of all new fossil fuel exploration activities in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction, in agreement with the agreed objective in the First Global Stocktake at Climate COP28.

6quart\_ We affirm the importance of full and effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its ocean-related goals and targets and recognize the role of conserving and sustainably using the ocean, seas and marine resources in achieving their objectives.

<sup>1</sup> Adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

- 6quin We shall ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, and inland water areas, and marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected, and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded ecosystems are under effective restoration, including the establishment of areas-based management tools where destructive fishing methods such as bottom trawling and dredging are either not allowed or are at least effectively regulated. We will take effective legal, policy, administrative, and capacity building measures at all levels, as appropriate, and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of marine genetic resources including and from digital sequence information and associated traditional knowledge on genetic resources, in line with as agreed upon as global targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, (KMGB) and the BBNJ process. These efforts should ensure the full integration of marine biodiversity and its multiple values, including intrinsic, relational and cultural values in addition to economic values, in line with section H of the KMGBF. These efforts should also recognize and respect diverse value systems and concepts and the integral role and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including over traditional territories, where applicable, and in line with section C and H of the KMGBF. We commit to ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened marine species and for the recovery and conservation of marine species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk.
- 7 We affirm our commitment to continued cooperation to address climate change-related sea level rise and its effects, and acknowledge the ongoing process at the General Assembly to address sea-level rise, including through the convening of the High-Level Meeting on Sea Level Rise held in New York on 25 September 2024. We recognise sea level rise due to climate change disproportionately impacts Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and coastal communities, in particular in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and acknowledge the urgent need for greater international cooperation and collective action to enhance their adaptive capacities and build resilience while mitigating climate change. We are determined to strengthen international cooperation to support those who are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and sea level rise.
- 8 We commend the leadership of SIDS in highlighting and addressing sea level rise, and note in particular the 2021 Pacific Islands Forum Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea Level Rise, the 2023 Pacific Islands Forum Declaration on the Continuity of Statehood and the Protection of Persons in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea Level Rise, the 2021 Alliance of Small Island States Leaders' Declaration, and the 2024 Alliance of Small Island States Leaders Declaration on Sea Level Rise and Statehood.

- 9 We note the work of the International Law Commission (ILC) on the topic “Sea-level rise in relation to international law” and encourage States to share their views on the various aspects of this topic with that Commission.
- 10 We note the 2024 Advisory Opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on the Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law. We **urge** all States to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and to protect and preserve the marine environment in relation to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.
- 11 We remain deeply concerned by the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution, **including macro, micro and nanoplastics** in the marine environment, and its multiple negative impacts on the environment and ecosystems, human health, **animal welfare**, as well as on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. We recognise the urgency of addressing this global challenge, and thus reaffirm our commitment to conclude negotiations on an **ambitious and effective** international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities, in line with the mandate of UNEA resolution 5/14 [*co-facilitators’ proposal based on mandate of UNEA 5/14 and verbatim reference in UNOC2 PD paragraph 8*].
- 12 We reaffirm our shared commitment to accelerating action to prevent, significantly reduce and control marine pollution of all kinds, **especially plastic pollution, as well as minimise direct harm to marine life**. We support the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in addressing ship-sourced pollution, including underwater radiated noise from ships and dumping in the marine environment. We encourage all competent international organisations, in particular the FAO and UNEP, to address the issue abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear and its impact on habitats and marine species.
- 13 We reaffirm the need to adopt a source-to-sea approach to reduce pollution from freshwater sources and strengthen integrated coastal zone and ocean management, marine spatial planning and climate mitigation and adaptation as well as disaster risk reduction strategies to enhance the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems and communities. We commit to **ecologically coherent** nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to protect, conserve and restore natural buffers such as mangroves, seagrasses, kelp forests, salt marshes and coral reefs, while promoting sustainable livelihoods and conserving biodiversity. We stress the importance of scaled up and accelerated implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative to ensure coastal communities vulnerable to hazardous weather, water or climate events have equitable access to timely, accurate, and actionable information.

14 We reiterate the need to increase scientific knowledge on deep sea ecosystems and emphasise the importance of the precautionary approach/principle, including in relation with deep sea mining projects. We recognise the work of the International Seabed Authority in the promotion and encouragement of marine scientific research in the international seabed area. We welcome the progress of the work of the International Seabed Authority towards the development of robust rules, regulations and procedures and environmental policies, pursuant to article 145 of the Convention, to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment, for, inter alia, the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and for the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area.

14bis We urge States at the International Seabed Authority to adopt a moratorium or precautionary pause on deep-sea mining to ensure that no deep-sea mining is permitted unless and until sufficient independent scientific information has been obtained to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects and prevention of damage to the flora and fauna and biodiversity, and that any such activities are consistent with the common heritage of humankind principle and the free prior informed consent of Indigenous Peoples.

14ter We recognise the contributions of effective area-based management tools, such as marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including through traditional marine tenure and community-based resource management, and eco-centric actions and non-market-based approaches in line with section H and C of the KMGBF, to support the health and resilience of the ocean and coastal ecosystems, their species, and the coastal communities that depend on them.

14quart We recognise the importance of aquatic animals in ensuring a balanced marine ecosystem, global food security, and supporting billions of lives. We are deeply troubled by the vast numbers of fishes killed per year, in the trillions, and urge for the ethical treatment of aquatic animals used for human purposes by reducing unnecessary suffering as much as possible.

### *Promoting sustainable ocean-based economies*

15 We recognise the tremendous opportunities offered by sustainable ocean-based economies for States, especially developing countries and particularly SIDS, small islands and LDCs, to eradicate poverty, achieve economic growth and social development while safeguarding the health, resilience and productivity of marine and coastal ecosystems for present and future generations. We recognize international trade and environmental policies should be mutually supportive. In this regard we reaffirm our commitment to supporting the implementation, as appropriate, of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) - a renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity, and the Doha program of action for LDCs.

16 We recognise the essential role of sustainable ocean plans and management in achieving sustainable ocean-based economies and ensuring the largest achievable coverage of ocean areas under national

jurisdiction are sustainably managed by 2030. In this regard, we take note of the voluntary commitments of some coastal states to ensure 100 percent of ocean areas under their national jurisdictions are sustainably managed by 2030 [*co-facilitators' proposal based on framing of voluntary commitments in UNOC2 PD para 7*]. We commit to supporting capacity building, knowledge exchange, and financial mobilisation to enable countries, especially SIDS and LDCs, to develop and implement sustainable ocean plans, with the aim of making ocean protection the norm, not the exception, consistent with the Protection Principle.

17 Recognising that the burden of proof must lie on extractive and polluting sectors, as implied in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration of 1992, we shall convene a group of experts to report in 2027, one year before UNOC4, on ways to improve its implementation.

18 As a key pillar of the ocean economy, fisheries and aquaculture provide livelihoods, economic opportunities, food security and nutrition to millions worldwide. We emphasize the urgent need to improve their sustainability to combat malnutrition and poverty, particularly for populations in vulnerable situations, while ensuring the long-term health of marine ecosystems. While noting variability between and within regions, we are deeply troubled by the continuously degrading accumulated trends at the global level in the status of marine fish due to unsustainable practices, challenges from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, fisheries crimes, including the trafficking of vulnerable marine species, overcapacity and overfishing, climate change, ocean acidification, loss of biodiversity, pollution and aquatic ecosystems degradation. In this context we call for decisive and collective action to accelerate transition to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture systems, through enhancing marine spatial planning, science-based management, promoting, scaling up and replicating successes, and working together to fight IUU fishing and fisheries crimes.

18bis We encourage all States to promote participatory management schemes for small-scale fisheries in accordance with national laws, regulations and practices, as well as in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

18ter We highlight the importance of the efforts in the regional fisheries management organisations to establish sound management measures for sustainable fisheries and call upon countries and RFMOs to step up monitoring, control and enforcement.

19 We encourage World Trade Organization (WTO) Members to deposit their instruments of acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies to accelerate its entry into force and implementation. We invite members to advance and conclude negotiations as soon as possible and by its 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on additional provisions on fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing to achieve a comprehensive fisheries subsidies agreement that fully delivers SDG target



14.6, and recognize that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country members and least developed country members should be an integral part of these negotiations.

- 20 We recognise the critical roles of maritime transport in the global economy and the challenges for the sector to increase its sustainability. Decarbonisation of shipping remains an urgent priority. We welcome the IMO adoption of the 2023 Strategy on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships and its enhanced common ambition to reach net-zero emissions from international shipping by or around i.e. close to 2050. To contribute to the delivery of these ambitions, we commit to the adoption of a goal-based marine fuel standard and a maritime GHG emissions pricing mechanism in 2025, and for these to come into force in 2027. We encourage States to implement, in the short and medium term, each of the technical and operational measures for energy efficiency and wind propulsion in order to make progress in reducing and phasing out the consumption of fossil fuels and their corresponding GHG emissions.

### *Accelerating action*

- 21 We welcome the adoption of the Agreement under the UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), and urge States to sign, ratify, approve, and accept the Agreement to promote its early entry into force and accelerated implementation. We welcome resolution 78/272 of the General Assembly establishing the Preparatory Commission to prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement and for the first Conference of the Parties. We call upon States to engage in the Commission to support modalities that operationalize the Treaty as early as possible in an equitable, effective and transparent manner. We recognise the important role the Agreement will play in achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly 30x30.
- 22 We encourage states to take advantage of using the updated modalities for describing modification and description of areas meeting the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and explore potential synergies with the future implementation of the BBNJ.
- 23bis We call on States to promote awareness and education campaigns at local, national, regional and international levels to inform the public about the importance of maintaining a healthy ocean and resilient marine ecosystems. We commit to ensure that people, especially children and youth, are empowered with the relevant knowledge and skills, through promoting and supporting quality education and lifelong learning for ocean literacy.
- 23ter We emphasize the critical need for ocean accounting and mapping of coastal and marine ecosystems to inform policy decisions, development planning and integrated coastal zone management as well as

conservation planning, in line with the global targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

24 We urge States to enhance law enforcement, judicial cooperation, and cross-sectoral coordination to address crimes affecting the ocean, including illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, transnational crimes in the fisheries sector and value chain, pollution crimes in the marine environment, and the trafficking of marine species. These crimes not only deplete keystone species, destabilizing marine ecosystems, but also contribute to broader environmental degradation and organized criminal activities that exploit jurisdictional and enforcement gaps at sea. We emphasise the growing convergence of environmental crimes at sea, including waste dumping, oil and chemicals spills, and marine species trafficking, which undermine ocean governance and sustainable resource management.

24bis. We acknowledge that the transnational and highly organized nature of these crimes demands a coordinated, intelligence-led response. Strengthening international cooperation through real-time intelligence-sharing, harnessing technology and AI-driven surveillance tools, joint enforcement operations, and harmonized legal frameworks is essential to closing enforcement gaps and dismantling criminal networks that operate across multiple jurisdictions.

24ter Public-private partnerships have an important role to play in enhancing enforcement efforts. Collaboration between governments, industry, and civil society can strengthen monitoring and reporting mechanisms, ensuring that maritime environmental crimes do not go unchecked. By fostering trust and cooperation between these stakeholders, we can create a more comprehensive response to threats against marine ecosystems.

24quat Climate change further exacerbates these threats, increasing ocean stressors such as rising sea temperatures, acidification, and extreme weather events, which, in turn, intensify resource scarcity and create conditions that facilitate illicit activities at sea. Strengthening the protection of marine biodiversity, including within marine protected areas (MPAs) and in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), is crucial to ensuring ecological and legal integrity. We call for the full and coordinated implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the BBNJ Agreement, and relevant regional fisheries agreements.

24quint We acknowledge that a more integrated, intelligence-driven, and cooperative approach is essential to safeguarding the long-term sustainability of ocean resources, protecting marine biodiversity, and upholding the rule of law in ocean governance. By bridging the gap between conservation efforts and enforcement strategies, improving data and intelligence-sharing, and strengthening the capacity of

institutions responsible for safeguarding our oceans, meaningful steps toward addressing these complex crimes can contribute towards a more secure and resilient marine environment.

To achieve this, we acknowledge the need to strengthen capacity-building in maritime law enforcement, enhance intelligence-sharing, improve maritime domain awareness, and bolster judicial cooperation, ensuring that legal frameworks are effectively enforced. A holistic and cooperative approach is essential to safeguarding the long-term sustainability of ocean resources, protecting marine biodiversity, and upholding the rule of law in ocean governance.

25 We welcome the adoption of the UNSFR (A/RES/79/145) and its recognition of the importance of transparency for effective fisheries management, its role in enhancing and fostering sustainable practices, and ensuring the responsible management of marine resources. We urge States to enhance efforts, and relevant international organizations, including RFMOs and arrangements, to consider ways to better integrate transparent practices into fisheries management and promote data exchange *[based on the UNSFR 79/145]*

26 We recognize the importance of vessel tracking in monitoring compliance, and surveillance measures and high seas inspection and encourage States to support initiatives that enhance tracking capabilities to ensure the responsible and sustainable management of marine resources. We note the ongoing discussions within the FAO Committee on Fisheries on the importance and challenges of identifying beneficial ownership of fishing vessels and urge further action to address these challenges *[based on paragraphs 130 and 96 of the UNSFR and 14 c) and 14 l) of the Report of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries July 2024]*.

27 Ocean action must be based on the best available science and knowledge, including traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems, while recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities in conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. To that end we:

- a. Affirm the value of strengthening sharing of knowledge and expertise, including, where there is free, prior and informed consent, the knowledge, innovations, practices and technology of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, traditional knowledge and local knowledge systems.
- b. Support new research to address the multiple challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, food security and nutrition, water security, energy transitions, pollution and disaster risk.
- c. Commit to further improving the scientific understanding of the ocean and supporting sustainable science- and knowledge- based measures, exchanges and collaboration to accelerate action, including through the United Nations Decades of Ocean Science for Sustainable

Development and for Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), the UN Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, and its World Ocean Assessments.

- d. Support a strong science-policy interface to provide timely, credible and salient scientific information to inform policies and actions.
  - dbis Support the use of diverse and multilingual scientific knowledge from a variety of sources, from different regions and in different languages.
  - dter We will assess and review the opportunity, synergies and financial feasibility of an International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) within existing frameworks, such as the IOC, that promotes the conservation and sustainable long-term use of the ocean, engages decision-makers, fosters inclusiveness, and stimulates innovation through interdisciplinary research.
  - e. Commit to strengthening coordinated international, regional, subregional and national observation and data collection efforts, including as appropriate through the development of integrated information management, digital representation of the ocean, infrastructure and systems that provide access to reliable, timely and high-quality marine data.
  - fbis. Encourage cooperation to strengthen or, where appropriate, establish coordination mechanisms for the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas, fostering biodiversity, connectivity across borders, **including the creation and protection of corridors that connect marine protected areas, especially in areas used by migratory species, to ensure their survival and that their populations thrive,** and promoting conservation and the sustainable use of marine resources at the local, national and regional levels.
  - f. Enhance cooperation, including South-South and triangle cooperation, to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration, peer learning, knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices within marine scientific research, and to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technology, and analysing and using reliable data and statistics.
  - g. Recognise the vital role of the blue bioeconomy for all industries and sectors related to the marine environment.
- 28 We recognise that SDG 14 is one of the least funded SDGs and that accelerating ocean action requires new, additional, and predictable and adequate means of implementation and significantly increased, accessible finance, especially for developing countries and in particular SIDS and LDCs. In this regard, we:
- a pre. Look forward to the outcome of the fourth international conference on financing for development to be held in Seville from 29 June to 3 July 2025.

- a. Promote the recognition of the sustainable ocean economy as an investment opportunity among financial institutions through instruments such as Blue Bonds and Blue Loans.
- b. Recognize the importance of the provision and mobilization of finance from all sources, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building, and the increase of scientific knowledge, and development of research capacity to developing countries, in particular small island developing States and LDCs, to allow them to invest in conservation efforts and sustainably use our ocean, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.
- c. Encourage the mobilization of resources drawing on a wide range of sources and instruments including public grant-based concessional finance and non-debt instruments as well as other types of concessional finance, with a view to alleviating financial barriers and capacity constraints, and in this regard reiterate the central role of national policies and development strategies.
- d. **Raise awareness on** suitable financial instruments as appropriate, including microfinance, payments for eco-systems services, credit mechanisms, grants, trusts and subsidies consistent with international commitments.
- e. Encourage the active and meaningful involvement of the private sector, **development** banks, insurers and investors, to align with financial flows and redirect their products and services towards the transition to sustainable ocean-based economies including by finding innovative and financially sustainable solutions to support the health and resilience of the ocean and the communities dependent on its resources.
- f. Encourage collaboration on blended finance mechanisms and other mechanisms deemed appropriate in the mobilization of investments in developing countries, particularly SIDS and LDCs.
- g. Encourage the mobilisation of resources from all sources, including concessional financing, grants and enabling capital from a variety of sources, including from Multilateral Development Banks in line with their mandates, sovereign wealth funds, national development banks, charities, philanthropies and other donors as well as governments with a view to overcoming financial barriers, especially in vulnerable developing countries, particularly SIDS and LDCs.
- h. Provide support to coastal communities, in particular small-scale artisanal fishers and aquaculture producers, women and girls, youth, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities in developing and implementing locally driven adaptation measures, and stress the importance of enhancing their capacity to effectively engage, advocate and manage marine resources in a sustainable manner.

- 29 We value the voluntary commitments made to implement SDG 14, including at UN Ocean Conferences, and encourage partnerships to expand initiatives and increase their impact. We support the inclusive nature of voluntary commitments and encourage appropriate monitoring, review and follow-up on the progress on voluntary commitments made at UN Ocean Conferences.
- 26bis. We emphasize the critical importance of multilateral ocean governance and mainstreaming ocean related issues into broader multilateral efforts and fora, to ensure that ocean sustainability is effectively integrated and adequately addressed in the relevant discussions and agendas, particularly those directly linked to ocean health.