

Linking the Paris Agreement and other UN agendas to synergise ocean-climate action

UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue to consider how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action

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Introductory remarks delivered on behalf of UN-Oceans

by

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Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

I am pleased to deliver a short statement on behalf of the twenty-nine members of UN-Oceans, the United Nations' inter-agency coordination mechanism on oceans and coastal issues. UN-Oceans members have mandates relating to oceans and climate change which align with the objectives of the Paris Agreement across various disciplines and sectors.

UN-Oceans members are, for instance, supporting efforts to reduce emissions, including in the field of maritime transport, and building States' capacities to implement ocean-based solutions, such as in fields like blue carbon, which show exceptional promise for the mitigation of climate change. Members are also actively involved in adaptation efforts,

including action to protect critical coastal infrastructure and to support sustainable aquatic food production and effective fisheries management. Members are active in supporting green finance flows and investment in innovative solutions for the climate crisis, as well as underlining the critical role that global frameworks can play in supporting climate action, including through trade measures and the effective implementation of legal instruments.

Of course, scientific information and data is essential to understanding climate change, informing mitigation and adaptation activities, and measuring progress towards our goals. UN-Oceans members are active in the development of ocean science relating to climate change, and indicators relating to, for instance, ocean acidification, as well as the understanding of our past that can be gleaned from coastal and underwater cultural heritage. In the context of the UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, several new programmes have been launched over the last 18 months, addressing ocean observation, deoxygenation, acidification and blue carbon, delivering critical knowledge that will facilitate Parties' adaptation and mitigation activities and develop innovative ocean-based solutions. Members are also instrumental in ensuring that the science-policy interface is being bridged through providing relevant and timely information to policymakers, including through publications such as the World Ocean Assessments.

The overlap between the different agendas of UN-Oceans members and the objectives of the Paris Agreement provide a crucial opportunity to facilitate cross-sectoral solutions in the ocean space, to leverage collaborative and synergized action, and to scale-up action to do more with less through cooperative efforts. It also offers the opportunity for States to benefit, through the involvement of UN agencies, from the experience in other States, learning from similar endeavours to tackle the climate crisis through ocean-related action.

Members of UN-Oceans are committed to increasing efforts to deliver as one and stand ready to assist States in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Thank you.