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1. **Thank you** to the Co-Chairs and DOALOS staff, as well as UNWTO staff here in Madrid, for making arrangements to allow the participation of the Global Ocean Commission in your discussions.
2. **GOC:** The Report of the Global Ocean Commission *From Decline to Recovery – A Rescue Package for the Global Ocean* was released in June 2014 after 18 months of deliberation by 17 Commissioners. It contains eight proposals that have been defined as **bold, ambitious** and **pragmatic** at the same time. These 8 proposals are at the heart of the subject matter of this session of UNICP, **Ocean and Sustainable Development**.
3. **SDG:** The first of the eight proposals contained in the Report is the adoption of a **stand-alone SDG for the Ocean** -- as an instrument to pull resources and give visibility to Global Ocean challenges. From early on last year, we have supported the campaign of Palau and the other Pacific SIDS calling for a stand-alone Ocean SDG. During the Open Working Group we've counted **90 countries** expressing support for an Ocean SDG. And two weeks ago, at the most recent session of the Post2015 Intergovernmental Negotiation, we've welcomed the **statement read by Iceland on behalf of 20 countries** to reiterate the importance attached to SDG 14 on Ocean.
4. **Post2015:** There is a **growing momentum** for Ocean in the Post2015 process. We note in particular the statements made two weeks ago by Chile, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, Seychelles, Monaco, Fiji, Nauru and Tonga on behalf of the Pacific SIDS asking that the Ocean be one of the thematic issues for the high-level interactive dialogues at the Post2015 Summit in September this year. During the Secretary General's Climate Summit in September 2014, the Co-chairs of the Global Ocean Commission had expressed their disappointment for the absence the Ocean. This was incomprehensible, because Climate and Ocean resilience are the two faces of the same coin.
5. **High Seas:** The mandate of the Global Ocean Commission is the governance and conservation of **Areas beyond National Jurisdiction**. The big challenge that was recognized two and a half months ago when consensus was reached by the BBNJ Working Group, to launch negotiation for an international instrument under the UNCLOS -- another proposal that was and is supported by the Global Ocean Commission.
6. **Targets:** When you read our Commission's report you see that a set of SDG targets relevant to the high seas were proposed. These targets in the report do not entirely coincide with the OWG final proposal for SDG 14, simply because when this was discussed by our Commissioners in March 2014, the work of the OWG was not finished. I can say however that our Commissioners expressed their support for the targets proposed in the

final report of the OWG in July last year. But our Commissioners emphasize that it is important that these targets be guided by **relevant, strong, practical** and **measurable** indicators.

7. **Indicators:** With this in mind, we have worked on a document with indicators for the targets most relevant to high seas issues. This proposal is on our website, and I know that some of you are taking it into consideration. www.globaloceancommission.org
8. **Statistical Commission:** Since we produced this paper, the UN Statistical Commission released its own report which started to be discussed two weeks ago at the Post2015 Intergovernmental Negotiation. We agree with what many delegations said regarding the Statistical Commission report. In many ways, it is only a first sketch that needs a lot of additional work. And we look forward to progress being made between now and the beginning of 2016. Looking at the indicators proposed for SDG14 by the Statistical Commission in their first draft, and regardless of the input already provided by UN Oceans, it is evident that the larger Ocean community must play a role to support the Statistical Commission in making the indicators stronger, more practical, policy-relevant and action-oriented. The Statistical Commission is focussed on universal indicators, but nothing should prevent the Ocean community to add to those.
9. **Policy-relevant and action-oriented:** What do we mean when we say Policy-relevant and Action-oriented?

Take **Target 14.1 on marine pollution** for example: regarding marine debris, suitable indicators should be the number of countries with taxes or restrictions on certain plastics uses, including bans on single plastic bags, and programmes to improve waste management and to increase circular use. That's what we mean when we say policy-relevant and action-oriented. Assessing micro-plastics concentration in seawater, and the accumulation of plastics, including micro-plastics, in marine life would also be more measurable than the current proposal on plastics material "entering" the ocean.

Target 14.2 on marine and coastal ecosystem management. Indicators could be 1) the number of Flag States having joined relevant RFMOs and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, 2) the number of RFMOs allocating all catch limits in accordance with scientific advice, 3) the number of RFMOs carrying out independent performance reviews to assess whether the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle are upheld, or 4) how many fish species and stocks remain commercially exploited with no RFMO catch limits.

On ocean acidification, Target 14.3. We need data on research programmes on carbon sequestration trends, and to monitor pH-vulnerable species, such as marine calcifiers including coral reefs.

On Target 14.4. We were surprised that the Statistical Commission in its draft did not propose any indicators concerning IUU and destructive fishing. For example, to be effective we should assess Flag States' total industrial fishing fleet size and capacity, and the ratio between artisanal and industrial fisheries. We should also monitor the number of ratifications of the FAO PSMA Agreement and the number of Port States developing supporting domestic legislation. Or the number of Flag States and RFMOs requesting IMO numbers and transponders. Or those banning the transshipment of fish at sea. And, how many countries conduct EIAs as a pre-condition to allow high seas bottom fishing? Also regarding in Target 14.4, to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to MSY levels, it is important to consider which percentage of fish stocks previously overfished are now within biologically sustainable limits.

Two more examples, and I invite you to read the rest on our website or to contact me:

Target 14.5 on MPAs. What we need to measure is the countries' MPA coverage by 2020, as well as high seas MPA coverage, especially beyond 2020.

And for **Target 14.6** on fishing subsidies, which is an issue covered extensively in our GOC report, indicators we need are 1) the number of countries publically disclosing data on fisheries subsidies relating to vessels building, modernization or scrapping, 2) the ratio between expenditure on fisheries data collection, science and monitoring and control -- versus public expenditure supporting extraction, and 3) the reduction of fuel subsidies for high seas and distant water fishing.

We also support comments that were made two weeks ago about **Target 14b** regarding the need to certify industrial fisheries, not only artisanal fisheries, and **Target 14c** regarding UNCLOS.

10. I'd like to encourage you to read our paper on indicators, and I look forward to your consideration and feedback.
11. **Next steps:** The Global Ocean Commission is what we call a biodegradable initiative. After producing the report, we are now mandated for one year to promote the different proposals, so that a concrete legacy is left behind when the commission closes down at the end of this year. One such legacy will be the stand-alone Ocean SDG with, we hope, strong indicators which will help placing the Global Ocean where it belongs: at the centre of sustainable development.
12. **Protecting the high seas:** It is my understanding that you have had some discussion this week on the opportunities that could arise from closing industrial fishing within certain high seas areas, and on how this could be done. We welcome this conversation. This is an issue that is discussed in Proposals 7 and 8 of our Report. The Global Ocean Commission has proposed the creation of an independent Global Ocean Accountability Board to benchmark progress on ocean conservation, and to recommend within a period of five years whether the creation of high seas regeneration zones is warranted. We shall continue to inform you on our thinking in this area.

Thank you very much.