



21st meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Statement by Brazil

8 June 2021

Oceans are a vital element not only for those who inhabit coastal areas, but for mankind as a whole. We depend on oceans for environmental services, food, trade, transportation, energy, amongst other sectors. It is thus crucial that we fully understand the impact of human activity on our oceans.

2. Understanding the effects of climate change on the marine environment and biodiversity is imperative; so is the need to develop ways and means of mitigation and adaptation. In this context, Brazil welcomes the IPCC's 2019 *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, as well as the launching of the *Second World Ocean Assessment* under the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the States of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects.

3. In particular, Brazil notes with concern the findings of the IPCC's Special Report that "global mean sea level (GMSL) is rising, with acceleration in recent decades due to increasing rates of ice loss from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets (*very high confidence*), as well as continued glacier mass loss and ocean thermal expansion", and that "increases in tropical cyclone winds and rainfall, and increases in extreme waves, combined with relative sea level rise, exacerbate extreme sea level events and coastal hazards (*high confidence*)". It is

also particularly worrisome that knowledge concerning coastal sea level changes is still lacking, as cautioned by Second World Ocean Assessment.

4. Brazil therefore welcomes the General Assembly's decision to focus discussions of the 21st meeting of the Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP) on the theme "sea level rise". Understanding the possible impacts and related challenges of sea level rise is of the utmost importance for decision-makers in coastal States, in order to allow them to base national policies and actions on the best available knowledge. Such understanding is also essential for the promotion of international cooperation and coordination between States in addressing the impacts and challenges related to sea level rise. The 21st meeting of the ICP will also complement the ongoing discussions of the International Law Commission on sea level rise in relation to international law.

5. As a country with a coast of almost 11,000 km, Brazil remains fully engaged with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Sustainable Development Goal 14, so as to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources. All activities related to the marine environment should aim at leading to

sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social, and environmental.

6. Finally, Brazil would also like to reaffirm its full support and commitment to the objectives, purposes and principles enshrined in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which sets out the universal legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.