



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

22nd Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

“Ocean Observing”

AGENDA ITEM 3: General Exchange of Views

6 June 2022

The Philippines wishes to thank the Co-Chairs, H.E. Ms. Isabelle F. Picco, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco, and H.E. Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga, for their efforts in turning this 22nd Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP22) into reality. We also acknowledge the crucial role of the Secretariat, in this regard.

The Philippines has supported this process from the onset, including the proposal on the topics to be considered by the discussion panel and the two panel segments on (1) ocean observation: tools, contributions to science-based decision-making and challenges relating to gaps in observational data and (2) international cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean observing and addressing related challenges.

We take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for his report (A/77/68) which is structured along these lines. We agree with the Report's conclusion that collection of ocean observation data, which allows us to understand the state of the oceans, contributes to science-based decision making for sustainable development.

During the early stage of this process, we proposed the inclusion of the idea of "expanding the existing global network of marine meteorological observation platforms in order to improve the analysis and prediction of marine weather and climate in line with ensuring the safety of lives and properties at sea" as a potential sub-topic of ICP.

We noted that while there have been significant strides in increasing the density of sea-based observations of marine meteorological variables through the Volunteer Observing Ship (VOS) Scheme and the deployment of moored and drifting buoys, much of these observations are situated over the offshore waters and high seas (within the exclusive economic zone, but usually outside the territorial sea and archipelagic waters).

We proposed that the sub-topic would cover, among others, discussions on the expansion of marine meteorological observations over inshore and coastal waters through additional buoy deployment, inclusion of more vessels plying domestic sea routes, and the use of earth-based and space-based remote sensing applications, such as high-resolution altimetry, high-resolution ocean sea surface winds, and high-frequency Doppler ocean radars.

We are pleased that the Report includes a discussion of this in part under the tools and frameworks for ocean observation. We look forward to the discussions during the various panels under the two segments, including in addressing the challenges facing the existing framework in terms of, among others, gaps in spatial coverage and in terms of capabilities to collect data.

Finally, we wish to reaffirm our understanding that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. It is in this spirit that we take part in ICP22 and support oceans-related processes that help synergize multilateral action and strengthen the global ocean observation framework and enhance cooperation to improve ocean observation systems across the globe. Thank you.

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