

Section [number]: [title]	Comment	Response from the Experts
Argentina		
<p>paragraph 24</p> <p>**to be possibly applied/replicated also in Climate Change brief para 57</p>	<p>Argentina observed the use of the term "nature-based solutions" in paragraph 24 of the first version of the document entitled "WOA II and Sustainable Development Goal 14: life below water".</p> <p>In this regard, the Group of Experts rejected such observation with the following explanation:</p> <p>"The text reflects that included in the second World Ocean Assessment. Changing the text would make it no longer reflective of the content of the second World Ocean Assessment. Note that the term 'nature-based solutions' is a commonly used term, e.g., by IUCN and the European Union, and used here on purpose instead of ecosystem-based approaches to depicting approaches used in coastal protection and coastal development."</p> <p>Additionally, it is noted that in paragraph 57 of the revised version of the document entitled "Brief on the second World Ocean Assessment and climate change in the ocean", replaced a reference to "ecosystem-based measures" by the expression "nature-based solutions" and Footnote No. 16 has been incorporated as follows:</p> <p>"para. 57: Responses to threats from climate change are varied and include a mix of hard and soft coastal defences. Forms of built infrastructure, such as seawalls or dykes, are widely used but tend to be more costly and maintenance-dependent than "nature-based solutions" (footnote 16), such as marshes, mangroves, reefs or seagrass."</p> <p>"footnote 16: The concept 'nature-based solutions' has been used in the resolution on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development approved in 2021 in the GA. Additionally, a resolution on Nature-based Solutions for Supporting</p>	<p><i>Thank you very much for your comment. The language used in the Brief reflects the agreed language in the Second World Ocean Assessment, thus we have not added the suggested language.</i></p> <p><i>Footnote 16, which was a proposal put forward by another member State, has been slightly amended to clarify that it does not provide any conceptual definition, but rather just simply indicates where</i></p>

	<p>Sustainable Development was approved in the UNEA https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-environment-assembly-concludes-14-resolutions-curb-pollution."</p> <p>The expression 'nature-based solutions' does not have a conceptual definition, not being an agreed term in its meaning and its scope.</p> <p>With regard to the pressures that negatively affect the marine biodiversity, they undermine and endanger the functioning of the planet and its ability to provide the services ecosystems need to survive and thrive. If the pressure on the oceans continues to increase, the continuity of the provision of these services will be seriously threatened.</p> <p>The main issue of ecosystem services is not resolved through nature-based solutions but through action from ecosystem-based measures. It is not just applying a concept whose scopes are defined and accepted multilaterally but to give an answer to the bottom of the question.</p> <p>Reference is made to mangroves and coastal ecosystems, which impact especially to sectors in a situation of vulnerability, women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, among others, regarding of which the consequences of biodiversity loss are often be more serious, by relying heavily on the services of local ecosystems for their subsistence and be highly vulnerable to impacts on such services.</p> <p>Regarding the use of the concept by IUCN and the EU, the following should be noted: Argentina is not a member of IUCN, which is a organization made up of non-governmental organizations and countries; and, in relation to the EU, its concepts and institutions are not applicable 'ipso facto' to the multilateral language nor its use by the EU makes it a commonly used term, much less accepted, by other states that are not part of it.</p> <p>Based on the above, in the text entitled 'Brief on the second World Ocean Assessment and Sustainable Development Goal 14: life below water' in paragraph 24 the following wording is suggested, which is incorporated in capital letters, in order to move towards a possible consensus wording:</p>	<p><i>this "expression" has been used.</i></p>
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	<p>"24. As part of responses to minimize the impacts of coastal development on marine environments, blue infrastructure² development, as well as ECOSYSTEM - BASED MANAGEMENT APPROACHES AND nature-based solutions, AMONG OTHERS are being introduced in an attempt to harmonize coastal development and protection with habitat and ecological protection. Linked to target 14.5, other approaches such as marine protected areas and other spatial conservation measures are being promoted and implemented to protect specific marine and coastal species and habitats."</p> <p>The proposed modification lies in the fact that there may be, eventually, more than one way to respond to the different impacts according to the current and existing approaches as well as new solutions and knowledge.</p> <p>In that sense, the same approach can be applied to paragraph 57 of the document 'Brief on the second World Ocean Assessment and climate change in the ocean' where 'ecosystem-based measures' has been crossed out. We propose to retain this reference, since its inclusion is scientifically grounded:</p> <p>"57. Responses to threats from climate change are varied and include a mix of hard and soft coastal defences. Forms of built infrastructure, such as seawalls or dykes, are widely used but tend to be more costly and maintenance-dependent than nature-based solutions AND ECOSYSTEM - BASED MEASURES/APPROACHES, such as marshes, mangroves, reefs or seagrass, AMONG OTHERS."</p>	
Australia		
paragraph 81	<p>81. The protection of marine ecosystems is embedded in various international agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (<u>UNCLOS</u>) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (<u>CBD</u>), as well as in regional conventions <u>agreements and other instruments</u> and national legislation. Efforts continue to strengthen the implementation of international law, as reflected in <u>including</u> the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea <u>UNCLOS</u> at all levels, including by increasing the level of participation of States in the numerous global and regional treaties that supplement its provisions.</p>	

	<p>Australia kindly requests that the language in this paragraph be reverted back to the original drafting, which reflected agreed language from the Second World Ocean Assessment.</p>	<p><i>Thank you very much for the comment. The language has been reverted to reflect the agreed language of the Second World Ocean Assessment.</i></p>
EU		
<p>81</p>	<p>The protection of marine ecosystems is embedded in various international agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as in regional conventions, agreements and other instruments and national legislation. Efforts continue to strengthen the implementation of international law, as reflected in including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at all levels, including by increasing the level of participation of States in the numerous global and regional treaties that supplement its provisions. –</p> <p>With reference to your email below, the European Union and its 27 Member States refer to the suggested amendments in paragraph 81 of the “Brief on the second World Ocean Assessment and Sustainable Development Goal 14: life below water. Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects”, attached for ease of reference, in relation to Target 14C.</p> <p>The EU and its Member States prefer the previous version of the paragraph as it reflects agreed language from the Second World Ocean Assessment, and consequently request that this paragraph reverts back to the previous formulation.</p>	<p><i>Thank you very much for the comment. The language has been reverted to reflect the agreed language of the Second World Ocean Assessment.</i></p>

Iceland		
81	<p>On behalf of Iceland, I would like to submit the comment that we regret that the important reference to UNCLOS in paragraph 81 has been weakened.</p> <p>Iceland would like to request DOALOS to revert back to the previous language, which reflects agreed language from the Second World Ocean Assessment.</p>	<p><i>Thank you very much for the comment. The language has been reverted to reflect the agreed language of the Second World Ocean Assessment.</i></p>
New Zealand		
paragraph 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On paragraph 60, in addition to the reference to COVID-19 disrupting global trade and tourism, we consider it worth acknowledging that COVID-19 has also increased pressure on coastal fisheries and aquaculture as communities turn to those resources for food security, livelihoods and economic resilience. This is especially so in the Pacific region where there was significant impact on the tourism sector. 	<p><i>Thank you very much for the comment. Text has been added, reflecting language in chapter 8A of the Second World Ocean Assessment.</i></p>
paragraph 81	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On paragraph 81, in relation to the reference to the UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), New Zealand's strong preference is to revert to the previous UNCLOS language. 	<p><i>Thank you very much for the comment. The language has been reverted to reflect the agreed language of the Second World Ocean Assessment.</i></p>
Norway		

paragraph 81	With reference to the below correspondence regarding the Regular Process, please be advised that Norway would like to object to the weakened language on UNCLOS in target 14 c) of the revised brief document regarding SDG14. Norway wishes to retain the original language, which reflects the wording in the Second World Ocean Assessment, and also corresponds to the standard language in the annual General Assembly resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. Our understanding is that the brief is meant to synthesize what is stated in the Second World Ocean Assessment.	<i>Thank you very much for the comment. The language has been reverted to reflect the agreed language of the Second World Ocean Assessment.</i>
Peru		
[Page number 25], [paragraph number 4]	Part of this process will be further identifying opportunities for dialogue with and input from other United Nations and intergovernmental processes, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in its capacity as the secretariat of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, Convention on Biological Diversity, among others.	<i>Thank you very much for the comment. The third cycle will include all relevant processes and organizations, but we highlight UNDESA here as the secretariat of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and thus most relevant to the SDGs. Not changed.</i>
[Page number 25], [paragraph number 5]	The opportunity for dialogue and input of all stakeholders will allow for content relevant information and experiences to the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 14, to be considered during the scoping exercise, and for the inclusion of relevant content in the	<i>Thank you very much for the comment. We have changed the</i>

	assessment(s) to be developed during the third cycle. This might include identifying the linkages between Goal 14 and other Goals in greater detail than what was done in the second Assessment and the present brief. It also might include identifying mechanisms that allow the direct and indirect transfer of knowledge to inform Goal evaluations.	<i>language to reflect the suggested changes.</i>
[Page number 25 and 26], [paragraph number 6 and 1]	Finally, it could also include an assessment, including good and failure experiences , of progress on achieving the targets of Goal 14 and an analysis of the maturity of the related Goal 14 indicators and challenges in maturing these to the point they can be considered as tier I indicators to transform activities to reach out Goal 14 . These activities will not only support delivery of output I of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process, focused on assessment(s) of the state of the marine environment and marine biodiversity, but also assist with the delivery of output II as set out in the programme of work focused on supporting and interacting with other ocean ecosystems related intergovernmental processes.	<i>Thank you very much for the comment. We have changed the language to reflect the suggested changes.</i>
Republic of Korea		
paragraph 81	<p>I would like to to deliver the position of the Government of the Republic of Korea regarding the revised version of the brief document on the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: life below water.</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Korea cannot support the revision made in the second sentence of the paragraph 81. In particular, with regard to the proposal to change "as reflected in" with "including", our side requests to revert back to the original phrase ("Efforts continue to strengthen the implementation of international law, as reflected in the...") which is the agreed language in the SDG 14.c.</p>	<i>Thank you very much for the comment. The language has been reverted to reflect the agreed language of the Second World Ocean Assessment.</i>

Singapore

para 81

Singapore disagrees with and objects to the amendments to the second sentence of para 81 of the revised brief on SDG 14 and requests that the previous version of the sentence be restored for the following reasons: First, the brief was meant to provide a synthesis of relevant information from the second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II), and the previous version of the subject sentence accurately reflected what was conveyed in WOA II, having regard in particular to section 9 of the overall summary and section 5 of chapter 28. Second, the language in the previous version of the subject sentence was consistent with language used in section 9 of the overall summary and section 5 of chapter 28, as well as the language of SDG 14.c. Third, in relation to the rationale that was provided for the amendments, the primacy of UNCLOS in the area of conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources is clear from SDG 14.c, which states that UNCLOS provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources.

3 For the above reasons, Singapore’s position is that the second sentence of para 81 should revert to stating as follows: **“Efforts continue to strengthen the implementation of international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at all levels, including by increasing the level of participation of States in the numerous global and regional treaties that supplement its provisions.”**

Thank you very much for the comment. The language has been reverted to reflect the agreed language of the Second World Ocean Assessment.

UK

[Page 23], paragraph 81

We do not support the changes to this paragraph, as the revised language could be interpreted as undermining the primacy of UNCLOS as the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.

We strongly support retention of the original text.

Thank you very much for the comment. The language has been reverted to reflect the agreed language of the Second World

		<i>Ocean Assessment.</i>
USA		
Paragraph 81	<p>The United States requests that the red text below, (reflected as changes in purple in the version posted on the RP website) from para 81 of Brief Document (iv) on SDG 14 not be incorporated into the document, and that this portion of the para be reverted to the previous text. This change would be consistent with previously agreed text.</p> <p>Proposed text:</p> <p>81. The protection of marine ecosystems is embedded in various international agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (<u>UNCLOS</u>) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (<u>CBD</u>), as well as in regional <u>conventions agreements and other instruments</u> and national legislation. Efforts continue to strengthen the implementation of international law, as reflected in including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea-UNCLOS at all levels, <u>including</u> by increasing the level of participation of States in the numerous global and regional treaties that supplement its provisions.</p> <p>U.S. suggestion:</p> <p>81. The protection of marine ecosystems is embedded in various international agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (<u>UNCLOS</u>) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (<u>CBD</u>), as well as in regional <u>conventions agreements and other instruments</u> and national legislation. Efforts continue to strengthen the implementation of international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea-UNCLOS at all levels, including by increasing the level of participation of States in the numerous global and regional treaties that supplement its provisions.</p>	<i>Thank you very much for the comment. The language has been reverted to reflect the agreed language of the Second World Ocean Assessment.</i>