



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY MR. LUKE TANG, COUNSELLOR (LEGAL),
PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 2020 UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14,
NEW YORK, 4 FEBRUARY 2020**

[Full statement, including parts not in oral delivery]

Co-facilitators,

I would like to start by aligning my delegation with the statements delivered by Guyana on behalf of the G77+China, and by Belize on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States. I will now offer additional views on the political declaration in my national capacity.

2 I would start by making some general observations. First, it is important to bear in mind that we are not starting from scratch, but rather, we are building on the outcomes of the 2017 conference, including its outcome document – the Call for Action. The Call for Action provides the foundation, which this declaration must build on. In this regard, we emphasise that this declaration should complement and supplement the Call for Action, and there should not be any renegotiation of language agreed in the Call for Action.

3 Second, the declaration should reflect the balance between conservation and sustainable use, which is the essence of Goal 14. Third, the declaration should reflect the interlinkages and synergies between Goal 14 and other Goals of the 2030 Agenda, particularly those with ocean-related targets.

4 General observations aside, I wish to also comment on specific elements that should be included in the declaration. First, the declaration should expressly recall and

reaffirm the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” adopted by the 2017 conference, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/312. Second, the declaration should reflect the importance of a strong science-policy interface, and how science-based decision-making and innovative action can be further promoted at the international level. In this regard, recognition, where appropriate, should be given to international processes, such as:

- (a) the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects;
- (b) the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;
- (c) the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;

as well as the work of organisations such as:

- (d) the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); and
- (e) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

5 Third, the declaration should encourage intersectoral and interdisciplinary data sharing, as well as promote access to such data. Fourth, the declaration should promote science-based and innovative action to address marine pollution, in particular from land-based activities, including addressing pollution caused by plastics. Fifth, the declaration should reflect the importance of implementing international law, as reflected in UNCLOS. References, where appropriate, could be made to the provisions of UNCLOS on marine scientific research, development and transfer of marine technology.

6 Finally, the declaration should reflect the relationship between Goal 14 and other Goals, such as Goal 13 on climate change, and spur scientific research to increase our understanding of issues such as sea-level rise and its impacts.

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