

**Statement by the Republic of Kazakhstan
on behalf of the Group of LLDCs on the zero draft of the Declaration for the
2020 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine re-
sources for sustainable development**

23 March 2020, New York

**Mr. President,
Distinguished**

co-facilitators,

It is my honour to address you on, behalf of the Group of the Landlocked Developing Countries, and to thank the President of the General Assembly and our co-facilitators, Palau and Denmark, for their able stewardship in finalizing the draft Declaration of the 2020 UN Conference on Oceans.

The Group of LLDCs attaches great importance to achieving SDG 14, which is to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". We recognize the immense threats faced by the oceans and their resources. We are equally aware of the devastating consequences of unhealthy oceans, in particular, that of climate change, which severely affects both coastal countries and landlocked states.

The outcome of the 2017 Ocean Conference, "Our Ocean, Our Future" calls for action and acknowledges the challenges faced by LLDCs on an equal basis with LDCs and SIDS. Therefore, the upcoming 2020 Ocean Conference is an opportunity for us to build on this reality. Our Group's firm position is that awareness raising, capacity-building, technology transfer, information and, education should be extended to landlocked developing countries in the upcoming outcome document to be adopted in June this year. It is necessary to ensure an inclusive approach to implement SDG 14 and leaving no one behind.

In this light, the LLDC Group would like to propose language amendments to the zero draft, which are submitted on the following attachment.

Though the LLDCs have no coastal land, they have a linkage to the oceans in a significant way, particularly, through their transnational rivers that cross to them. The rights of LLDCs to utilize the oceans, seas and marine resources are also clearly articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). UNCLOS gives the landlocked states the right to access the oceans, as well as the right to participate, on an equitable basis, in the exploitation of the surplus from the living resources. According to UNCLOS, the high seas are open to all States with their resources, which are the common heritage of all of humankind.

So far, more than half of the 32 LLDCs are State Parties to UNCLOS. However, their participation in the ocean economy remains marginal, partly due to poorly developed transit and transport systems, limited resources, lack of awareness, as well as limited access to the sea. It is imperative to enhance the participation of LLDCs in the ocean-based economies, and as well as in the implementation of SDG 14.

Addressing the challenges faced by LLDCs in accessing the sea is therefore of paramount importance to all Member States, irrespective of their geographical location. This includes considering the challenges faced by LLDCs and fulfilling the obligation of providing transit infrastructure, capacity building and undertaking border crossing reforms.

This should enable LLDCs to inclusively achieve SDG 14, as well as, all the 16 other goals through concerted action with other countries.

As we continue to engage, let us take into consideration that the SDGs are indivisible and should be implemented in an inclusive manner. It is clear that their implementation should take into consideration the interconnectedness of the people and of the planet.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the commitment of LLDCs to fully support your vision and action plans to achieve SDG 14.

Thank you.

Annex with the language proposals by the Group of Landlocked developing countries to the zero draft Declaration for the 2020 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

1) Paragraph 5 should read as follows.

We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and are alarmed by the adverse effects of climate change on the ocean, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, shifts in fish distribution and decrease in fish stocks, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events, as established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its special report entitled *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*. **We also note that the cryosphere (including, snow, glaciers, permafrost, lake and river ice) is an integral element of high mountain regions, which are home to roughly 10% of the global population and that widespread cryosphere changes affect physical, biological and human systems in the mountains and surrounding lowlands, with impacts evident even in the ocean as also established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its special report entitled *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*.** We emphasize that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent priority to ensuring the health of the ocean and thus our future. [Based on A/RES774/3, OP11, A/RES/73/232, OP1 A/RES/71/312, OP4 + new language from the IPCC report of 2019]

2) To amend paragraph 10 (e) as follows.

Developing and implementing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including through increasing the use of ocean-based renewable energy technologies, implementing nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration, **implement measures to control glacial lake outbursts and floods**, preventing coastal erosion and preparing for ocean-related extreme weather events. [New language]

3) To amend the chapeau of the paragraph 11 as follows.

We commit to taking the following science-based and innovative actions on an urgent basis, recognizing that all developing countries, and in particular small island developing states, least developed countries **and landlocked developing countries**, face capacity challenges that need to be addressed: [New language]
