

PERMANENT MISSION OF HONDURAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Intergovernmental consultations on the declaration for 2020 United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

New York, 23 March 2020

Firstly, Honduras would like to thank the Ambassadors of Palau and Denmark, Ngedikes Olai Uludong and Martin Bille Hermann, for the proposed Draft Declaration for the United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and all their efforts to continue the negotiations of the declaration despite the difficult situation the world is facing with COVID-19.

Secondly, Honduras aligns itself with the statement prepared by the Permanent Mission of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Thirdly, regarding the Declaration, the country would like to state the following in its national capacity:

1. Honduras appreciates that the declaration is concise, balanced, action-oriented and that it has focused on areas of action based on science and innovation, as a result of an intergovernmental process.
2. Additionally, Honduras appreciates the balance within the text between the conservation and the sustainable use of the ocean. In this decade of Oceanic Sciences for Sustainable Development, it is important to focus on marine scientific research, with emphasis on financing the capacity building and transfer of marine technology for developing countries.
3. Honduras supports the proposal of including a paragraph indicating the interlinkages and synergies between Goal 14 and the other Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which are integrated and indivisible, based on language of A/RES/71/312, OP 6.

4. Moreover, Honduras fully supports the proposal of the co-facilitators regarding paragraph 7, which is based on A/RES/74/19 and states the following:
“We reaffirm that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out”.
5. It is of great importance to include in the declaration the negotiation process that is being carried out through an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, for the elaboration of an International legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. In this regard, Honduras supports paragraph 8, nevertheless requests that the title of the conference be edited based on A/RES/72/249. It is also important to emphasize the need to conclude this process as soon as possible.
6. With regards to the chapeau in paragraph 11, Honduras requests the cofacilitators to consider the use of a more inclusive and balanced language to recognize the capacity challenges of all developing countries. The cofacilitator may contemplate including the listing of developing countries based on language of A/RES/71/312, OP6. In that sense, the commitment to take the science-based and innovative actions on an urgent basis described in the subparagraphs of 11, should apply inclusively to all developing countries.
7. On the other hand, Honduras recognizes the importance of paragraph 11.f. It is notable to highlight that concerted action is still necessary in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, achieving gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources.

Finally, Honduras wishes to express to the cofacilitators its full support to finalize the negotiations of the aforementioned declaration through bilateral and group consultations, taking into account that there will be more time for negotiations.

Thank you.