



Mission permanente de la Principauté de Monaco auprès des Nations Unies

Permanent Mission of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations

866 U.N. Plaza, Suite 520 | New York, NY 10017 | Tel : (212) 832-0721 | Fax : (212) 832-5358

2020 UN Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

Intergovernmental consultations on the Draft Political Declaration

18 March 2020

Position of Monaco

The Principality of Monaco thanks the Co-Facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Denmark and Palau to the United Nations, for the zero-draft circulated by letter dated 2 March 2020.

Monaco supports the zero-draft overall and considers that it is a very good basis for our work in order to ensure a robust, brief, concise, and action-oriented Declaration.

We thus recognize the emphasis put on the science-based and innovative areas of action for the implementation of SDG 14 and we thank the Co-Facilitators for the focus put on many crucial points, i.e. climate change and specific issues encompassed in SDG 14 and its targets.

We welcome the language stating that “greater ambition is required at all levels” and reaffirming the commitments made in the 2017 Call for Action. We also support the way the four targets under Goal 14 that mature this year are being addressed and we agree that “action is not advancing at the speed or scale required”.

We fully support recognizing that “the ocean plays a vital role in the climate system and water cycle from” and reaffirming that “climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time”.

As conveyed during the Preparatory meeting in February, our delegation also strongly supports an explicit reference to the IPCC *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*. We acknowledge this has been taken into account and thank the Co-Facilitators.

In paragraph 5, the adverb “particularly”, which was included in the 2017 Call for Action does not appear anymore. Since the situation has not improved, we suggest saying that “we are *still particularly* alarmed by the adverse effects of climate change on the ocean”.

Moreover, we believe that the link between carbon dioxide emissions on the one hand and climate change and its consequences on the other hand should be made clearer. Ambitious reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is also urgently required.

Addressing together the interrelated challenges of climate change and of the declining the health Ocean constitutes a long-lasting endeavor of the Principality of Monaco (cf. for example the *Because the Ocean* initiative). For this reason, we welcome the inclusion of language on mitigation and adaptation to climate change by the Co-Facilitators, and on “nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration” (in 10. e.).

In addition, even if the 2017 Call for Action is reaffirmed, we note that the explicit reference to the “*decrease in polar ice coverage*” was not retained in the current zero-draft. Because of the significance of this phenomenon, as highlighted in the SROCC, we suggest that a mention of the continuous, rapid decrease in polar ice coverage is added.

Furthermore, we support the proposed language on the “findings about the cumulative human impacts on the ocean” and the mention of the IPBES global assessment report in the following paragraph.

Likewise, we strongly support the reference to the Decade of Ocean Science for sustainable development as well as the mention of the work conducted by the IOC-UNESCO in preparing and implementing the Decade.

Monaco generally agrees with the “solutions” reflected in paragraph 10 and the “actions” to be taken “on an urgent basis” reflected in paragraph 11.

As per the views expressed by our delegation during the Preparatory meeting, we fully support the ideas you propose in sub-paragraphs 10. a., b., c., d., e., which are based on several targets of SDG 14 (i.e. targets 1, 2, 4 and 5).

In this regard, we support additions brought to the zero-draft compared to elements contained in the 2017 Call for Action, in particular because:

- “the use of communication tools and other technological tools for monitoring and tracking” is indeed particularly relevant in the fight against IUU fishing;
- “comprehensive life-cycle approaches” is an important component of the issue of marine pollution reduction. A mention to “*untreated wastewater*” could nevertheless be added (it was mentioned in the 2017 Call for action);
- science is key to assess the ecological value and contribution of areas to be protected (as well as the cumulative impact of human activities, as mentioned in other paragraphs).

Important actions are encompassed in paragraph 11 including, inter alia, strengthening data collection and sharing, enhancing access to technology and capacities, establishing effective partnerships, promoting innovative financing solutions and increasing cooperation.

We support the focus respectively put on women empowerment and gender perspective, and on children empowerment and ocean literacy.

Monaco strongly supports the science-policy interface, at all levels, and the commitment to be taken in this Declaration to strengthening it.

Decisions must be based on the best available scientific information. To do so, scientific findings must be adequately understandable by decision-makers at the political level, as well as by all stakeholders (e.g. industries) and citizens (e.g. consumers) so all can take, at each level, appropriate actions. Education, awareness raising and knowledge sharing, as well as of good practices are therefore important.

The roles of the scientific community, Academia, civil society, NGOs, the private sector and the general public are thus interlinked. All stakeholders with a worldwide convening power, such as the sport community, can also have a far reaching impact.

In addition, we believe that International Organizations also have a critical role, in particular IGOs specifically tasked to support science and science-based decision-making and/or management of the Ocean’s ecosystem and resources. We believe it would be relevant and fair to recognize this point in the Declaration.

As a few examples, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the IAEA Environment Laboratories, both based in Monaco, play an important role in better knowing the Ocean and effectively supporting the achievement of SDG 14.