

Canada's Statement on the Lisbon declaration

February 4, 2020

- Thank you co-facilitator.
- The challenges facing the ocean are global in scope. We must work together if we are to achieve SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda. In our view, the declaration should provide a clear roadmap to help accelerate our progress towards achieving SDG 14, in line with the need to take urgent and decisive action.
- The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate are clear. The impacts of climate change on our ocean are widespread. Our efforts to achieve SDG 14 will not succeed in the absence of climate action.
- While impacts of climate change will affect us all, coastal communities, and in particular Small Islands Developing States, are the most vulnerable to these changes.
- Women and girls are often disproportionately impacted by our changing environment but are essential actors in building resilient communities.
- To solve these problems, we need to develop a sustainable blue economy, predicated on the understanding that economic production and environmental protection must be mutually reinforcing.
- We need to recognize the crucial role of science, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science. In addition to scaling up ocean observation capacity and the use of Indigenous and traditional knowledge, as others have clearly stated, we need to ensure that relevant data are made available to those who need it for decision-making.
- Innovation will also be needed in areas such as technology as well as financing in order to support our transition towards a sustainable blue economy.
- Food from the ocean is a critical source of protein for billions of people around the world, yet globally fish stocks are under threat, including from overharvesting, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and from ghost fishing gear. More global action is needed to improve the long-term prospects for our wild fish stocks.
- Global awareness of plastic pollution has surged rapidly over the last few years. We should recognize the urgency of the threat of marine litter to ecosystems and take action.

- Marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures are essential tools to conserve marine ecosystems. The use of these tools should be scaled up globally and integrated more effectively with other uses of the marine environment through marine spatial planning.
- Working in partnership will be critical. At the heart of this will be full engagement with Indigenous peoples.
- Finally, public awareness and ocean literacy is essential if we are to achieve SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda.