March 17th, 2020

Ms. Naiara Costa
Ms. Ellery Wong
2020 UN Ocean Conference - 2nd Stakeholders Online Briefing -

Re: CANEUS Inputs to Zero Draft of Conference Declaration

Greetings Naiara and Ellery,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the 2nd Stakeholders Online Briefing earlier today morning.

I am pleased to provide you with following input to the Zero Draft of 2020 UN Ocean Conference Declaration.

Please note the suggested changes marked in red color.

10. b. Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and minimizing waste, by-catch and discards, in order to restore fish stock to levels that produce maximum sustainable yield targets, through the use of “internationally shared” communication tools and other technological tools for monitoring and tracking.

Explanation: There is a need to create a common platform that allows sharing of data segments with its ability to serve as a strong tool for bridging the gaps between the developed and developing countries. The eventual goal is to establish a public/private partnership, which would create a low-cost, internationally shared communication platform for bridging the gaps between the developed and developing countries with no barriers to entry for participating nations.

11. a. Strengthen national data collection efforts and improve the timely sharing and dissemination of data and knowledge, through shared and coordinated approach for global data exchange mechanism, including by making data widely accessible through open access databases, investing in national statistical systems, standardizing data, ensuring interoperability between databases, and synthesizing data into information for policy- and decision-makers.

Create new collaborative framework for sharing of marine technology and data standards to Monitor Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources” for “Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States” Sustainable Development.

Explanation: Currently there exists no partnership to coordinate and organize all the disparate efforts – especially one that ensures the availability of these capabilities to otherwise underserved countries.

11. b. Enhance international cooperation through coordinated approach / mechanism to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technology, including through strengthening science, technology and innovation infrastructure, domestic innovation capabilities, absorptive capacities and the capacity of national statistical systems, in particular in the most vulnerable countries, which face the greatest challenges in collecting, analyzing and using reliable data and statistics,
Explanation: The major challenge to access marine technology for the developing countries implementation of Goal 14 lies with the infamous "Valley of Death" in which a large majority of these technologies are unable to achieve the technological maturity required for infusion into a sustainable ocean-based economy and poverty eradication applications. There are numerous reasons for these Darwinian odds, chief among them being the lack of a robust mechanism to take emerging marine technologies for the implementation of necessary solutions.

Furthermore, it is not always clear what data, information and tools are available; how to tap into these tools; or how to find process and interpret the data in a timely manner.

11.c. Establish effective partnerships, including multi-stakeholder, public-private, cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary partnerships, including by incentivizing series of Limited Objective Demonstration Projects (LOD’s) through PPP for the sharing of good practices, giving visibility to well-performing partnerships and creating space for meaningful interaction and networking.

11.d. Explore, develop and promote innovative financing solutions for the development of sustainable ocean-based economies, including through public-private sector partnerships and capital market instruments, and providing technical assistance to enhance the bankability and feasibility of projects focusing on technology demonstration and its acceleration to support the end-user needs.

11.e. Recognize the important complementary role of traditional knowledge held by indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of social science in planning, decisionmaking and implementation, [based on A/RES/74/19, OP301] Explore a Global Indigenous Populations Initiative to Improve Sustainable Ocean-based Economy and poverty eradication using emerging science and technologies while addressing complementary traditional knowledge.

Thank you for your consideration and looking forward to the next steps.

Best regards,

Milind Pimprikar
Chairman