

Statement of Israel on the Zero Draft of the 2020 Oceans Conference Declaration

We wish to thank the co-facilitators for the zero draft of the Declaration. We also recognize the flexibility and innovative approach they have taken in the format of the subsequent consultation process in response to the constraints of the current global situation.

We have several minor additions to the text, which we feel capture or clarify priorities with regard to the state of the world's oceans.

Our first proposal is to insert a short sub-paragraph, as 11 (a-bis):

11 (a-bis) Actively restore marine ecosystems, taking into consideration the potential of nature-based solutions, [\[new language\]](#)

The above two associated points – restoration and biological adaptation – are now the focus of international agendas and scientific inquiry. For example, the last IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and the Cryosphere (September 2019) devoted several subchapters to ecosystem-based adaptation and restoration of marine ecosystems (such as coral reefs). On the same topics, a new UNEP report on global coral restoration best-practices is now in final writing steps. The report is being written as a response to resolution 3/14 adopted in March 2019 by the UN Environment Assembly on the sustainable management of coral reefs, in which the assembly requested a compilation of best practices for coral restoration. Further, the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology report (in the descriptive profiles for biomes and ecosystem functional groups, February 2020 version) highlights the needs for restoration.

While paragraph 6 of the zero draft touches on restoration, its call is neither direct nor strong, and it does not include the concept of “active restoration”.

Our second proposal highlights knowledge gaps, and the pressing need to continue research on marine ecosystems, so that our knowledge may inform action:

11 (d-bis) Close knowledge gaps with regard to marine ecosystems, including in areas such as biodiversity, [\[New language\]](#)

Very little is known on the biodiversity of marine ecosystems and closing this knowledge gap is required for the conservation and sustainable use of the world's oceans. Some of this work could make use of innovative approaches, such as DNA barcoding.

Our third and final proposal concerns invasive species, as these can drastically impact ecosystems and ecosystem services:

11 (e-bis) Implement measures, at the local, regional and global levels, to prevent the introduction and manage the adverse environmental impacts of alien invasive species, [\[based on A/Res/74/19, OP229\]](#)

Again, Israel thanks the co-facilitators for their work in preparing the draft and for helping move the process forward toward a meaningful Declaration.