

Statement by Morocco
to the Preparatory meeting for 2020 UN Conference to
Support SDG14
input for the G77+China position

- At the outset, let me on behalf of my delegation renew our full support to both Denmark and Palau as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations leading to the 2020 UN Conference on Oceans that will take place in Lisbon, on June 2020.
- Morocco is fully engaged to help unleash a beneficial dynamic and supports the implementation of SDG14. We realize that there are plenty of challenges and most importantly, how to reconcile the need to achieve economic sustainable blue development with the awakening of ecological consciousness and climate action on a global level.
- Morocco has been involved in launching various initiatives on the national and on the African level, including in **fighting Marine litter**, while further **developing and strengthening the fisheries local sector that we consider two main vectors of action**.
- We also underscore the need to incorporate maritime and aquatic zones science knowledge into the education systems at all levels and the need also to encourage the establishment of regional Scientific and educational Centers of Excellence for ocean and environmental related skills, benefitting to more scientists and to more youth so that they can be actors of transformative change in the decade to come.

Distinguished co-facilitators,

- Africa is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Impacts for our continent including at the coasts are expected to be substantially greater and capacity to adapt depends critically on access to funding, as many countries have limited adaptive capacity and will continue to experience residual loss and damage. The political declaration that will be adopted in Lisbon needs to address this aspect.

Moreover, as highlighted in many occasions by Ambassador Peter Thomson, Special Envoy for the oceans, **the financial sector needs to build trust with project holders. The text of the declaration needs to address that factor especially with regards to developing countries with coastal areas.**

· Finally, my delegation supports a brief, concise and action oriented declaration that would focus on:

- **Concrete actions to leverage capacity building, technology transfer, and research and development in Ocean related disciplines that we see as crucial.**
- **Promoting and scaling up integrated coastal management approaches and practices in order to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner both in coastal and land based areas around the world.**
- **The means of implementation that help us to introduce innovative formulas of international, regional, and bilateral cooperation and collaboration, including public-private, and public-private-partnerships.**
- **Transformative action in areas such as mapping, sustainable energy development, fishing, aquaculture, environment protection and fighting marine litter and sustainable maritime transport and shipping/**

· Morocco hopes that the conference in Lisbon will take place this summer after the current COVID-19 situation unfolds. Our delegation will engage actively through its different actors from the public and private sector as well as a strong participation of Foundations, NGOs and Youth voices. You may count on our full engagement and support to make this conference successful and focused on actions and solutions for SDG14.