

Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

UN Ocean Conference preparatory meeting, 4/5 February 2020

- The Kingdom of The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the position of the European Union as expressed during this meeting. In our national capacity, we would like to express a few additional remarks.
- Goal 14 is important to the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda, and to achieve the targets of SDG 14 action is required across many other Goals.
- We therefore require a holistic approach to the oceans and the implementation of SDG14 as an intrinsic part of the UN 2030 Agenda that recognizes that many of the challenges oceans face originate on land.
- The UN Ocean Conference provides a key platform to enhance synergy between Goal 14 and other Goals. The recognition of need for synergies should be a central component of the political declaration, and we advocate that all 8 thematic dialogues explore interlinkages between Goal 14 and other SDG's, and to showcase examples in this regard.
- One such example is Source-to-Sea, an emerging holistic and adaptive ecosystem based management approach that could be beneficial to address a range of issues, including those linked to marine litter, sustainable fisheries and achieving Zero Hunger. These and other efforts must be geared towards realizing a circular economy that respects the limits of our planet and is based on sustainable consumption and production.
- In order to promote a synergetic approach to SDG-implementation, it is also crucial to connect our discussions on SDG14 to other platforms and discussions that convene the coming time.
- In this regard, we underline the need for further work on improved governance of the Ocean, being a co-deliverable under SDG16b. Similarly, we must take urgent action to prevent biodiversity-loss as stipulated in target 15.5, with a view to the COP15 on Biodiversity in Kunming. Moreover, we should foster interlinkage between SDG 14 and climate adaptation efforts, and in that regard are proud to host the Climate Adaptation Summit together with the Global Commission on Adaptation on October 22nd in Amsterdam.
- In closing let me thank the co-facilitators for their efforts and assure you of the full support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the preparatory process of the Ocean's Conference.