

Ocean and Climate Platform

Thank you, Madame Chair. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, thank you for this opportunity to take the floor.

On behalf of the **Ocean and Climate Platform** – which is an **international coalition of 85 organisations** from civil society (including NGOs, scientific institutes, foundations, private sector, national and international agencies, etc.) working at the interface between science and policy to promote a better understanding of the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus: I would like to recall that **the ocean is at the heart of the climate system**.

We can no longer address climate change without addressing ocean change and the latest **IPCC report on Ocean and the Cryosphere** reminded us of the alarming prospects for the ocean.

Therefore, the very best thing that we can do for the ocean is to urgently **reduce GHG emissions**. And, given the current trajectories, it is crucial that **countries raise their ambition to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement**. In that sense, I also wanted to highlight the **final decision of UNFCCC COP25**, in Madrid, requesting the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to conduct an **ocean and climate dialogue** in June 2020. This dialogue should reflect the outcomes of the UN Ocean Conference.

In 2020, countries are also expected to **revise their nationally determined contributions** (NDCs) and we invite countries to include **ocean-related measures** for both adaptation and mitigation – including nature-based solutions, marine renewable energy and measures to reduce CO₂ emissions from shipping.

With regards to the proposed dialogues for the Ocean Conference, we support the suggestion made by several Member States to include “climate change” to the 3rd theme “Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification (target 14.3)”.

Thank you for your attention.