



**Statement delivered by Helen Ågren, Ambassador for the Ocean, Sweden
2020 UN Ocean Conference-Preparatory Meeting
4-5 February 2020, UN HQ**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Sweden aligns itself with the statement presented by the European Union and its Member States and wishes to express a few complementary points.

Sweden looks forward to working with H.E. Ms Ngedikes Olai Uludong and H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann to prepare a concise and forward-looking declaration on science based and innovative actions to implement SDG 14.

As we all know four of the SDG 14-targets matures in 2020. Achieving these targets is important not only for the ocean but also for the credibility of multilateral cooperation and the Heads of States that agreed to Agenda 2030 and the 17 global goals for sustainable development.

While preparing for the UN Ocean Conference in June the results of the intergovernmental conference negotiating a new instrument to protect biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction will unfold. And so will the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies with the view to ban harmful fisheries subsidies as well as the IMO climate strategy. The Ocean conference is an opportunity to mobilise governments and other stakeholders to take action. Building on the science, technology and innovations we have today we must seal these negotiations and kick off this decade with a new deal for nature.

Science is compelling regarding the need to protect marine areas, to allow marine living resources to recover and to secure a resilient ocean in times of climate change, increasing pollution and overexploitation. The Swedish Government supports the ambition to protect 30 percent of the ocean by 2030. We encourage other states to support this ambition and join the “Global Ocean Alliance” ahead of the Ocean Conference and the CBD COP 15 in Kunming and the BBNJ negotiating session IGC 4 in March

Science based frameworks with principles for sustainable management, ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning and best practices for Nature Based Solutions should be developed and guide further actions towards 2030. Data and tools to assess cumulative environmental impacts should be the basis for ecosystem based ocean planning. Sweden has developed such tools that we offer anyone to use and benefit from.

We should strengthen cooperation and coordination of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Regional Seas Conventions. Science-based management of fish stocks in line with the ecosystem approach, better monitoring and control, increased traceability along supply chains and improved and more selective fishing gears are areas where technology and innovations will serve us well.

The declaration, and the outcome of the Ocean Conference, must be ambitious enough to respond to the critical situation we are in, as well as giving our youth a message of hope for a cleaner and healthier ocean, and a climate that can be stabilized.

Thank you!