



Statement

by

**Mr. Leoneto Mantilo
Second Secretary
Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste to the United Nations**

at the

**Preparatory Meeting of the United Nations Conference to Support the
Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably
use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

**16 February 2017
New York**

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Excellency Co-Facilitator for giving us the floor

Timor-Leste aligns itself with the statements on the call for action delivered by Ecuador on behalf of G 77 and China, Maldives on behalf of AOSIS, Bangladesh on behalf of LDC, Sri Lanka on behalf of SIDS, and Nauru on behalf of PSIDS.

Regarding the Call for Action document, we support the aim of the co-facilitators to have a concise document with concrete and practical actions for the implementation of SDG 14, as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Timor-Leste is fully committed to contributing actively to the achievement of the objectives of the Conference and believes that the preparatory meeting and subsequent discussions as well as the Conference, are opportunities to galvanize further action on the implementation of SDG 14.

The elements for the Call for Action should be reflective of the themes of the partnership dialogues.

As was stated by the President of the General Assembly yesterday, the current health of the Ocean, or its lack of, is due to the actions of man and thereof also the solutions.

Addressing marine pollution, managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, and ensuring sustainable fisheries are therefore key elements to address the health of the Oceans.

However, we must also be cognizant of our consumption practices and climate change and their interrelated effects on the Oceans.

Timor-Leste fully supports the call for the establishment of serious partnerships, for adequate funding, capacity development and the transfer of knowledge.

We believe that it is within our reach to take effective action to protect and restore the health of Oceans whilst obtaining economic benefits from the ocean through blue economy principles, and preserving the Oceans for future generations.

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Achieving this, requires our collective efforts.

Thank you again co-facilitator.