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**Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas
Ecosystems and biodiversity**
SI and MNE elements for 11th session of OWG SDGs

Focus area 13: Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas

We would support stand-alone goal on conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas.

We would support possible targets aimed at prevention, control and reduction of marine pollution and marine disposal of waste and tailings, including from land-based activities. Therefore implementation of the related multilateral environmental treaties has to be strengthened in order to enforce implementation of legally binding measures especially those related to:

- Elimination of chlorinated pesticides.
- Reduction of BOD5 from urban waste water and in the food sector.
- Reduction of inputs of Mercury.
- Phasing out 10 persistent organic pollutants.

We would support possible targets on establishing marine protected areas as well as protection and sustainable use of marine resources, including biodiversity, beyond national jurisdiction. In that manner we especially support introduction of target values that are compatible with Aichi Biodiversity targets related to achievement of 10 % of coastal and marine areas by 2020, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, that should be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider seascapes.

In this manner we also support possible targets on the protection of sustainable small-scale fisheries as well as on the restoring fish stocks and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practice.

For more sustainable use of marine resources and integrity and preservation of coastal ecosystems it is essential to apply instruments of integrated coastal zone management, including marine spatial planning tools.

In this context promotion of land-shore-sea connections is also important for sustainable use and management of resources; together with other countries in the region Montenegro and Slovenia are developing such approach through EU Adriatic-Ionian Strategy.

Focus Area 14: Ecosystems and biodiversity

Environmental concerns must be adequately reflected in SDGs as environment is one of three dimensions of sustainable development. Environment should be taken into consideration across all SDGs and appropriately included in national policies.

We would support possible targets on halting deforestation and forest degradation and on ensuring sustainable management of forests.

We also welcome the inclusion of mountain ecosystems in the possible targets they are providers of many vital ecosystem services. However, we wish to point out that mountain areas should be appropriately addressed also from social and economic perspective, e.g. through promotion of sustainable tourism in this areas and promotion of social inclusion and development in mountain areas.

On biodiversity we would support possible targets on halting biodiversity loss, ensuring conservation and restoration of critical ecosystems, including wetlands. In that manner we especially support introduction of target values that are compatible with Aichi Biodiversity targets related to achievement of the target of at least 17 % of terrestrial and inland water by 2020, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, that should be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes.

We also welcome possible target on controlling introduction of invasive alien species and on maintaining genetic diversity of animal species (both farmed and of their wild relatives).

We call for additional target on the promotion of biosafety.

In order to provide sustainable management and use of natural resources, we would suggest paying additional attention to:

- Strengthening of the ecosystem functions and provision of nature and ecosystem-based services;
- Elimination of all illegal forms of construction and distortion of balance of the ecosystem in the protected areas or their immediate vicinity;
- Establishment of the system of sustainable financing of protected natural areas.

We also wish to point out the importance of establishing the connections between sustainable environment and enjoyment of human rights.