

Proposal for statement by France, Germany and Switzerland OWG11

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

Focus area 14. Ecosystems and biodiversity

We would like to recall the significant importance of these focus areas for social and economic development and would like that these dimensions are better reflected in the chosen targets.

From the outset, Mr Co-Chair, we would like to stress that it is paramount **not to undermine the goals and targets already in existence** for the issues dealt with in Focus Areas 13 and 14, in particular the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. One way to ensure this could be to include a target that aims at all the Aichi targets with a view to reach the 2050 vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

Rather than falling behind these targets, **our ambition should be to go beyond them** and this ambition orients our intervention today.

We welcome the co-chair's revised document on Focus area 13.

We would like to stress the importance of managing **sustainably all human activities in oceans and seas** (and not only fisheries), through an ecosystem-based approach, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction and also through integrated coastal zones management.

While targets 13 a) to c) and 13 f) are going in the right direction, they should address **all** relevant current threats to oceans and marine biodiversity in a comprehensive manner and bring the wording in line with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In addition, on target a), we would like to underline the technical and scientific difficulty in having a precise figure for the reduction of marine waste and litter.

On target d), the target should ensure full implementation of the existing regional and international regimes and commitments on oceans and seas, **while identifying regulatory gaps**.

Finally, we would like to recall the general target we suggested at the last meeting of the Open Working Group (*“Gradually eliminate of environmentally harmful subsidies that are incompatible with sustainable development, including for fossil fuel »*), that could also be included in another goal, instead of the current target g).

Now a few words on Focus area 14:

Again, we would stress that the targets are brought in line with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which could be explicitly referenced. In addition, we would like to see the issue of strengthening forest governance frameworks and promoting sustainable forest management reflected in a target. Poaching and trafficking of endangered species should also be explicitly addressed.

In order to highlight the interlinkages amongst all dimensions of sustainable development, we could consider a target promoting the elaboration and implementation of government strategies that emphasise the use natural resources in an efficient and environmentally sound way in order to ensure the long term sustainability of economic activities as well as to promote welfare.

Textual proposals for goals and targets under Focus Areas 13 and 14 on behalf of the Trio made up of France, Germany and Switzerland

Focus area 13

13a) by 2020, prevent, control and reduce marine pollution and other negative impacts from land and sea based activities, in particular as regards the input of nutrients, hazardous substances and marine litter

13b) by 2020, protect and restore marine ecosystems from the impacts of human activities so that marine ecosystems are more healthy, productive and resilient, including with respect to ocean acidification

13c) by 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, fish stocks are restored above levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits (Aichi target 6) and support sustainable small-scale fisheries.

13d) develop and ensure the full implementation of existing regional and international regimes governing oceans and seas and complement identified regulatory gaps.

13 e) Take immediate action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and to manage by-catch, discards and other adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries, including by eliminating destructive fishing practices

13f) by 2020, at least 10 per cent [and by 2030 at least 20 %] of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are 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 and seascapes (Aichi target 11, with addition for 2030 target), consistent with international law.

Focus area 14

14 a) by 2020 all 20 Aichi targets of the Strategic Plan for biodiversity are reached in order to halt the rate of loss of biodiversity and to ensure that ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, with a view to reach the 2050 vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

14 b) by 2020 the rate of loss of all natural habitats is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced [with a view to fully halting habitat loss and degradation by 2030] (Aichi target 5, with addition for 2030 target), and by 2020 protect threatened species (Aichi target 12)

14c) by 2020 at least 17 per cent of terrestrial areas are 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 and at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems are restored (compare Aichi Target 11 and 15)

14d) by 2020 ensure conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and enhance their resilience to climate change and disasters and contribution to carbon stocks

14 e) maintain genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives (compare Aichi Target 13) [shift to focus area 2 on sustainable agriculture].

14 f) Make two targets out of this target

f1) by 2020, ensure sustainable management of all forests and mountain ecosystems

f2) by 2020, at least half the rate of deforestation and increasing reforestation by x% (based on Aichi Target 7 where sustainable forest management should be in place by 2020)

14 g) by 2020, control invasive alien species (compare Aichi Target 9)

14 h) end poaching and trafficking of endangered species.

14 i) integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services values into development and poverty reduction strategies, fully respecting human rights and taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable and the importance of ensuring their participation and access to the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity

14 j) by 2030, use land sustainably and achieve a land degradation neutral world

14 k) strengthen forest governance frameworks and promote sustainable forest management

14 l) By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, fully respecting human rights and taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.