

Concept Paper on the Partnership Dialogues from China

Oceans are fundamental to life on earth covering 71% of its surface and providing livelihoods, food security, climate regulation, essential habitats, carbon sequestration, recreational opportunities ecosystems. Marine, open-ocean and coastal ecosystems health are fundamental to life on earth, providing critical ecosystem services for billions of people. Moreover, healthy oceans are critical to restoring and maintaining robust, resilient, and sustainable fisheries which both economic and social well-being depend on. However, oceans and fisheries lack sustainable governance resulting in continued degradation due to more reasons including pollution and climate change. How to dealing with crisis and challenges, and sustainable use oceans have become the global common challenge.

The United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably use the oceans, seas, and resources for sustainable development will convene from 5 to 9 June 2017. The Chinese Government would like to enhance pragmatic cooperation with all countries in the world to contribute our efforts and wisdom to the sustainable development of oceans with our own practice and exploration.

Theme 1: Addressing Marine Pollution

Marine pollution has not only adverse impacts on global climate and environment, but also severely threatens the ecological system that sustains the earth. We would like to propose the following:

- i. By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution. To achieve the goal of the prevention and control of marine pollution by area and degree, construct the prevention and control management system of marine pollution with land-sea integration and interaction between the area and the region.
- ii. Conduct the harnessing of pollution from rivers flowing into the sea and clean-up of the pollutants discharge sites into the sea, exercise control of the total discharge volume of pollutants in key

sea areas and increase gradually the ratio of areas with clean water quality in offshore.

iii. Conduct assessment and zoning of marine environment pollution and the risk of ecological disasters, and enhance the capability of coping with and handling the risk. Establish and improve joint emergency response mechanism for severe and huge environmental pollution accidents in nearshore areas, improve marine disaster prevention and mitigation system, and ensure marine ecological security.

iv. Deal with trans-boundary pollution through international and regional cooperation.

Theme 2: Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems

Healthy oceans and coastal systems are fundamental to sustainable development of oceans, and contributes to development of ocean economies and poverty eradication. We would like to propose the following:

i. Strengthen the research on ocean and coastal system, take effective management, protection and conservation measures, including marine protected area networks, marine spatial planning, integrated water resources management, integration of land and sea, and integrated coastal zone management, so as to restore the resilience of the ocean and coastal ecosystem.

ii. Reinforce the protection of ocean and coastal ecosystem through the conservation of precious and endangered species, natural relics and culture, and the restoration of coastal wetlands, mangroves, seagrass, and other critical habitats.

iii. Explore and establish cooperation mechanism in areas like ocean and coastal ecosystems protection, jointly put forward relevant technical methods and elements by learning useful experiences, develop effective international recommended standards, and promote the conservation capacity of ocean and coastal ecosystem.

Theme 3: Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification

Ocean acidification has been an important issue in the frontier areas of current international marine scientific research. We would like to propose the following:

- i. Support the establishment and operation of global ocean observation and monitoring system, particularly emphasizing the conduct of integrated observation and monitoring in ocean physics, geobiochemistry, biology, and ecosystem. Conduct comprehensive monitoring of climate change and its impacts on polar regions, oceans and offshore seas.
- ii. Assess the role of the ocean in the critical processes including carbon dioxide absorption, water cycle of the earth system, the predictability of climate change, and conduct research on the impacts of oceans' complex changes on marine ecosystem, in particular the marine habitats, spawning sites and feeding grounds.
- iii. Constantly conduct the monitoring, survey and impact assessment on climate change including sea level rise, and take active counter-policy measures to narrow the affected areas and scope of marine acidification. Conduct scientific assessment on the impacts of climate change and human activities on the changes of marine environment, and implement more effective and adaptive solutions.

Theme 4: Making fisheries sustainable

The sustainable development of fishery plays a critical role in sustainable livelihoods and economic prosperity of partners. We would like to propose the following:

- i. Implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time where feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.
- ii. Encourage the application of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture technology without damages to environment, so as to minimize nutrient pollution and advance the sustainable development of aquaculture.

Theme 5: Increasing economic benefits of SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

SIDS and LDCs are still faced with structural challenges including multifold weakness. We would like to propose the following:

- i. Provide aquacultural technology support for SIDS and LDCs within the South-South Cooperation framework, covering energy saving, emission reduction, recirculating aquaculture, and cage culture emission reduction. Promote South-South Cooperation on sustainable management of fisheries and tourism.
- ii. Strengthen skill training for fishermen and advance fishery mutual insurance and aquacultural insurance. Provide more and fairer market access for self-employed fishermen by developing new business models like e-commerce.
- iii. Encourage capacity building related to Blue Economy to improve the ability of developing countries in conserving and exploiting oceans, and benefitting from marine sustainable development through personnel training, establishment of demonstration sites, technology promotion and cooperation, and regional seminars.

Theme 6: Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology

Marine scientific knowledge, technology and innovation are critical to the understanding of oceans, and recognizing the differences in scientific innovation capacity and level among regions and partners. We would like to propose the following:

- i. Strengthen the marine cooperation with partner countries, jointly initiate and push the joint conduct of marine scientific research, get access to global data on marine environment and increase marine scientific knowledge through sharing of data, information and scientific knowledge.
- ii. Support the implementation of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, and implement capacity building in marine science and technology in SIDS and LDCs through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- iii. Deepen pragmatic cooperation in field of sustainable exploitation and utilization of marine resources, application of technology in conserving marine ecology, marine satellite services and marine quality assurance, and jointly develop emerging marine industry.

Theme 7: Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as

reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

International laws reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter referred to as Convention) provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources. We would like to propose the following:

- i. Recognize that Convention provides a legal basis for the undertake of relevant activities and cooperation to conserve and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources at the national, regional and global levels. The effective implementation of the Convention will greatly enhance the proceeding of the work of various fields related to SDG14 .
- ii. Comply with the regulations of Convention, reduce adverse impacts of marine exploitation and utilization activities on marine health. Conserve and restore the marine ecosystem and biodiversity through ocean-based management and comprehensive and integrated approach, so as to fulfill the obligations of each country in the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.