

## MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE HONDURAS ANTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

### INPUTS CONCEPT PAPER PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUES

- **Addressing Marine Pollution.**

It is important to take in to account the approach to marine pollution, highlighting the problem of solid wastes pollution from inland and the importance of collaboration between states to address these situations, which have a direct and negative impact on oceans flora and fauna. In addition, the effects of extreme weather events, particularly "El Niño" phenomenon and its effects on coastal biodiversity, and the impact of increased river flows towards the oceans on the behavior of adjacent areas to the rivers mouths, both geographically and in ecosystems.

- **Managing protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.**

Ecosystem-based adaptation integrates sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that enable people to adapt to climate change impacts. Its purpose is to maintain and increase resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people (International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 2012).

The safeguarding of underwater cultural heritage should be discussed, starting from the historic relation of humanity with the ocean and the importance of the studying and understanding of this relation from past times, recognizing and preserving the value of its material evidences.

Protecting underwater cultural heritage from pillage, commercial exploitation, trawling-damage, construction and climate change facilitates a beneficial use of the ocean. Its research and valorization contribute to improving ocean literacy, and, in line with SDG 14.5, to a better conservation of coastal and marine areas, and increase economic benefits to Small Island Developing States (SIDs) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), through the sustainable use of marine resources, especially through tourism, as stated in SDG 14.7.

It is important to also include Middle Income Countries (MICs) that face special challenges. It is necessary to bear in mind the situation of MICs that comprise island territories and, consequently, face complex problems, shared with SIDs

and LDCs. As reflected in paragraphs 48, 56 and 65 of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and paragraphs 71, 72 and 129 of Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as the last Oceans Resolution A/71/257.

- **Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology.**

Development of scientific knowledge, research capacity and the transference of marine technology is very important to take in to consideration. For this purpose, it is substantial to strengthen regional alliances involving academia, taking in to account its linkage with society; and the fundamental role played by non-governmental organizations in the promotion of actions to ensure the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, especially the protection of protected areas within the marine and coastal area. It is remarkable to emphasize on the great significance of research and conservation of underwater cultural heritage as an important part of scientific oceanographic research. They contribute to understanding climate change and the rise of the sea level. They help assess the impact of the ocean on human life.

Paragraph 57 of Secretary General's last report on Oceans and Law of the Sea, notes that underwater cultural heritage sites can provide strong evidence of past climate change and serve as indicator sites for changing currents, erosion and changing environmental conditions.

Increasing, capacity building and scientific knowledge of the sea in developing countries, can contribute decision-making, as well as improving the exchange of scientific data and best practices. As reflected in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, MICS face important challenges, as SIDs and LDCs to achieve sustainable development. Similarly, the latest Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (A/RES/71/257) in paragraph 11 underlines the need to address the particular challenges middle-income developing countries face through capacity-building.

- **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.**

It is important to strengthen national legislation on oceans and national technical capacities to ensure their implementation. The reinforce of cooperation among states, it's of equal importance, at the multilateral, regional and sub regional levels through the accession or ratification of international legal instruments that complement and strengthen the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the formulation of bilateral agreements on specific situations.