

Statement #3

Thank you Mr Co-facilitator,

Most of interventions of Member States and Stakeholders at this preparatory committee, both yesterday and today, showed huge overall support to the SDG14. As many in this room, the delegation of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO is overwhelmed by the diversity of ideas and proposals for the Call for Action. But many delegations emphasized the need to have a clear, readable and focused set of Actions. Also, implementation of 10 targets in the SDG14 does not really mean that we need 10 or more unconnected modalities, or avenues, for action. Many of them need to be crosscutting and warrant consolidation. Obviously, science and capacity development are crosscutting.

As the custodian UN agency for target 14.3 related to ocean acidification, which is inseparable from the issue of climate change, and for target 14.a for building capacity in marine research, IOC of UNESCO believes that the proposal to develop an UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development - Towards the Ocean We Need for the Future We Want - would provide all necessary opportunities for inclusion and consolidation of specific science-oriented proposals, leveraging ocean observations and science to produce the knowledge base that is an absolute must for informed decisions determining the success of our actions and, eventually, the fate of the ocean.

Based on our mandate in the UN system, IOC stands ready to support co-facilitators in developing a consolidated program of actions in all aspects related to ocean science and observations, capacity development and transfer of marine technology, through relevant partnerships.