

Statement by Bangladesh on behalf of the LDC Group on Partnership Dialogues at the Preparatory Meeting on the “UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use of the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development” on Wednesday, 15 February 2017 in CR4

Excellencies,

We speak on behalf of the LDC Group. We generally align ourselves with the Statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of G-77 and China on the selection of partnership dialogues.

We appreciate the fact that the selection of themes for the partnership dialogues has made a conscious attempt to address all ten targets under SDG14 in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

We join the G-77 and China position on further elaborating the title of the proposed partnership dialogue 7. 46 out of 48 LDC are State Parties to UNCLOS, and would underscore the importance of this theme focusing on implementing relevant international law within the overall SDG14 framework.

The LDC Group notes that the theme for partnership dialogue 5 is aimed at addressing the two LDC-specific targets under SDG14, i.e. targets 14.5 and 14.b. The LDC Group, with its unique combination of different vulnerable groups like SIDS, LLDCs and African States, looks forward to high-level, value-driven and results-oriented deliberations during this particular partnership dialogue. This would be one of our key focus areas at the Conference to discuss the possibilities for further strengthening meaningful global partnerships to mainstream ‘blue economy’ into LDCs’ national development strategies and eventual graduation with momentum.

The LDC Group, however, underlines that issues of interest and concern for the LDC Group are cross-cutting in nature, and deserve to be addressed in their right context under the proposed themes for the other partnership dialogues. The LDC Group looks forward to having its voice heard in other partnership dialogues and to working towards highlighting their issues of interest in the Concept Papers and Chairs’ Summary for all partnership dialogues. As the Secretary General’s Background Note has rightly pointed out, it would be crucial to further expand international partnerships to address LDC Group’s shared concerns with other Member States in areas like access to resources and markets for small-scale fishers, harmful fisheries subsidies, and implementation of international law, among others.

The LDC Group looks forward to mobilizing the expertise available within the Group in Geneva and Paris – in addition to those in our various capitals - to effectively contribute to the

partnership dialogues. We hope such expertise would be taken into consideration in terms of selecting moderators and panelists for various partnership dialogues. We would appreciate support from interested partners to facilitate the participation of such experts, including during the lead up to the Conference.

To conclude, the LDC Group wishes to put on record the various initiatives taken by a number of UN entities and other partners to support LDCs and SIDS. The LDC Group encourages its Member States to consider holding national consultations during the lead up to the Ocean Conference in June 2017, and developing their voluntary commitments through a broad-based consultative process.

I thank you.