

## **SESSION 2: ELEMENTS FOR A “CALL FOR ACTION”**

First, Canada would like to recognize the opportunity that the United Nations Ocean Conference presents to significantly advance work to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, and calls on all States and interested parties to take full advantage of this chance to amplify our individual efforts.

The Sustainable Development Goals are integrated and indivisible. Work toward the targets under Goal 14 must be undertaken with awareness for connections with the other

SDGs, and looking for opportunities to advance toward targets under multiple Goals. For example, sustainable fisheries management will be critical in achieving the goals of eradicating poverty and ensuring food security.

The targets under Goal 14 are interrelated, and progress on one can increase progress toward others. A prime example of this interrelation is Target 14.a on increasing scientific knowledge. Access to information and sharing information is key to increasing the overall scientific knowledge about oceans and

successfully achieving Goal 14. This is an important element of our efforts to build capacities.

The Call to Action should emphasize that progress toward all the targets under Goal 14 must be supported by the best available scientific information and advice. More technical work is required in order to develop practical indicators for measuring ecosystem health and performance in addressing conservation targets. We need effective and realistic indicators and thresholds to better guide fisheries and oceans management, and these

indicators and thresholds need to factor in risks from factors we cannot control, such as climate change. For example, we are currently developing a methodology for incorporating climate change considerations into fisheries stock assessments. And through enhanced research and monitoring activities, and in collaboration with international partners, we are increasing our knowledge of the biological impacts of ocean acidification on species of concern.

The declaration should urge States and organizations to make tangible investments in

scientific research, scientific cooperation and knowledge sharing to underpin efforts toward multiple targets. It should also emphasize the importance of the ecosystem based and precautionary approaches. To demonstrate our commitment in this regard, last year our Government announced an investment of almost \$85 million over five years to ensure we are able to realize the 10% target for protecting Canada's marine estate. At the same time, our Government committed \$197 million over five years to enhance our capacity to undertake freshwater and oceans science.

The Call to Action should also recognize the significant expertise possessed by various organizations involved in oceans issues at the sectoral and regional levels; expertise that should be seized upon and used in order to improve the conservation and sustainable use of our oceans and their resources. In this vein, the Call to Action should also emphasize the importance of enhancing cooperation and coherence amongst those organizations.

To achieve the targets under Goal 14, Indigenous peoples as well as local knowledge will need to be meaningfully included in

planning, decision-making, and implementation.

This is true of all the targets, and in particular target 14.b regarding small-scale artisanal fishing. The Call to Action should reflect this need to consult with and engage local and Indigenous people in implementing Goal 14.

All work toward achieving the SDGs also requires an understanding of the active role that women play in sustainable development, poverty alleviation and peace-building.

Addressing these issues effectively requires gender-sensitive interventions, reporting and data requirements, and indicators.

Women make up about half of the fishers and fish workers in small scale and artisanal fisheries worldwide. Women have an important role to play in the governance and conservation work of protected area management. The Call to Action needs to emphasize that engaging and including women in implementing Goal 14 will be crucial to achieving the suite of targets.

To achieve the goal of conserving and protecting ten percent of coastal and marine areas by 2020 we must be flexible in our approach, such as using other effective area-based conservation measures. Recognizing the

contribution of other effective area-based conservation measures allows the use of the most appropriate tool in each context to maximize marine biodiversity conservation and foster the buy-in from stakeholders that will be needed for implementation. Internationally, more expert work is needed on the question of what 'other measures' means.

Canada advocates a science-based approach to defining other measures in the marine environment. What we report and how we report it needs to be ambitious, transparent, and credible. Canada has offered to host an

international technical expert workshop on 'other measures' to provide scientific and technical advice on the biodiversity conservation benefits of these measures in the marine and coastal environment. The Call to Action should emphasize the importance of credible reporting of conservation measures toward this target.

We look forward to working with States and other participants in drafting this declaration.