

DE Statement, Session 2 - Discussion on elements for a "Call for Action"

- The German delegation associates itself with the statement of the EU on behalf of the EU and its Member States. In addition, Germany would like to thank for the opportunity to express our views and to be able to provide further food for thought to this important discussion in preparing the UN-Conference on Oceans in June. This conference, also being the first UN Conference that starts the implementation of an SDG as contribution to the Agenda 2030 process, is a great chance but also a great challenge to reach for the "Future We Want" for our Oceans.
- We started the discussion in Germany only recently as to what would be the most effective direction and content that a declaration of the ocean conference would encompass.
- It became very clear to us that at this stage (i.e. at the beginning of the SDG implementation process) the most prominent issues to address are strategic and procedural ones – our common way forward, our roadmap for the years ahead of us – which relates to the "who" and "how" rather than to the "what". The latter will be a collection of actions and voluntary commitments that need to evolve and that will represent the substance of our work towards healthy oceans. However, we see a unique chance now in strengthening and/or establishing some of the structures and processes needed for an effective implementation, answering questions such as
 - o Which are the right implementation levels when bringing together competent actors in order to coordinate our activities;
 - o How can an effective cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination be achieved within regions and how can we facilitate the exchange between regions?
 - o In view of the huge basket of ongoing and potential activities of all stakeholders in support of the ocean agenda, whether governmental, inter-governmental or non-governmental: how are we monitoring progress in the achievement of our ocean targets?
 - o How can we provide for a transparent, participatory and effective follow-up after the 2017 conference?
- We are therefore suggesting that the Call for Action takes up specific elements for the future governance of the SDG14 implementation process. As examples, we propose the consideration of:
 - o establishing new partnerships for regional ocean governance, across relevant sectors, facilitating the implementation of SDG 14 targets and other ocean related SDG targets through tailor-made and ecosystem-based approaches;
 - o preparing a streamlined, integrated and holistic global state assessment (thematic review) for the oceans, by applying a nested approach and

- establishing a clear link to the UN regular process / world ocean assessments and to assessments on the level of the marine regions;**
- o develop and sustain a systematic approach to following-up on the ocean commitments, enabling the transparent monitoring of the efforts by states and stakeholders in the long term and at the same time enhancing cooperation and coordination between stakeholders.**
- We look forward to listen to your ideas and proposals and to become engaged with all of you in this important process.**