

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

**United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for
sustainable development
New York, 5-9 June 2017**

General Statements on Item 8: General debate

Statement by

Mrs. Adriana PETCU

Minister

Ministry of Waters and Forests of Romania

Tuesday, 6 June 2017

Mister President,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to have the opportunity to address to you within this Conference.

I express my warmest congratulation to the two Presidents for their election and also to the other officers.

Romania aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the EU. Now I would like to make a few remarks in national capacity.

Romania considers that the oceans, seas and coastal areas are an essential integrated component of the global ecosystem. Representing the next frontier, the oceans provide sustainable food, energy, resources and land space for humanity. For this reason, oceans and seas could contribute to poverty eradication providing sustainable jobs.

Our growing understanding of the importance on sustainable oceans is certainly necessary for building a better future. So, it is our obligation to stop the degradation of the oceans and seas and to make marine protection a key priority of our policies.

The protection of the oceans and coastal areas contributes to fight climate changes.

Romania ratified the Paris Agreement last April. The Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu deposited the Instrument of Ratification to the UN Secretary General on 1 of June.

The adaptation to climate change will impose, on short term, a great effort in order to ensure the safety of the coastal areas and to support the economic and social development. The rising sea levels and costal area impact represent reasons for concern.

My country attaches great importance to the actions for the protection of marine environment. We are focusing on the reduction of pollution coming from land based sources and open sea, but also on the promoting of sustainable fishery.

Romania is deeply committed to support the cooperation in order to achieve a good environmental status of the marine waters, in accordance to the EU legislation, particularly for the Black Sea. Reaching these objectives will contribute to the achievement of the targets established in SDG 14.

An integrated approach of policy implementation, ecosystem included, will contribute to a cost efficient achievement of the SDG.

Additional efforts are necessary in order to finance the climate change adaptation measures and to promote an integrated costal area management and an urban sustainable development.

Reduce, reuse and recycle should become the key elements of the policies for protecting the marine environment. We need to focus on waste prevention and waste management, and in this regard, we support the development of partnerships.

My delegation joins others in calling for the Secretary General to continue his efforts to support the implementation of SDG14, and in this context, stresses the importance of appointing a Special Representative of the Secretary General for Oceans to support the SDG14 implementation.

Let me conclude, by expressing my strong belief that this Conference will allow significant progress to meet the objectives of sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources world-wide.

Thank you for your attention.