

## German Statement

### **„Partnership Dialogue 5: Increasing economic benefits to small islands developing States and least developed countries and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets”**

Excellencies, dear Delegates,

- Germany supports the implementation of concrete actions to increase economic benefits for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) from the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources as outlined in the S.A.M.O.A. pathway.
- We recognize the importance of sustainably managed fisheries, aquaculture and tourism as drivers of a sustainable economy, and the particular need to provide access for small-scale fishers to marine resources and markets. At the same time we must not ignore the need for conserving marine resources as the providers of valuable ecosystem services for human well-being.
- Therefore German Development Cooperation is stepping up its cooperation in the marine realm. The Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has launched in 2016 a 10 point plan of action for marine conservation and sustainable fisheries and has allocated more than 200 million US Dollar (more than 180 million Euro) as voluntary commitments to its implementation for this conference – roughly 50% of it for SIDS and LDCs.
- The Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) will continue its support through the international climate initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity including the support of sustainable small-scale fisheries.
- Examples under the 10 point plan of action include the following initiatives:

- The newly created Blue Action Fund that was launched in a side event at the German Ocean Pavilion today: Its first open call for proposals is focused exclusively on SIDS. The call is directed at national and international Non-Governmental Organizations. Projects will safeguard marine biodiversity and promote its sustainable use through small-scale fisheries and tourism.
- We also stepped up our funding for the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund which follows a similar approach.
- A new sustainable fisheries and aquaculture program within German development cooperation's ONEWORLD-No-Hunger-Initiative with a focus on African countries and aiming at securing livelihoods, food security and economic benefits.

The action plan also supports partnerships, among other the following:

- With the private sector we created the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) to improve the sustainability of fisheries and its supply chains. This partnership enhances sustainable fisheries management on the producer, and responsible behavior on the consumer side.
- To combat illegal, undocumented and unreported fisheries (IUU) within given legal instruments we work together and partner with the European Union, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, ILO, Interpol, UNODC and FAO.
- In addition we partner with FAO to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Small Scale Fisheries (VGSSF).

Thank you for your attention.