

Focus Area 13. Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Co-Chair,

On Focus Area 13, allow me to firstly congratulate and thank the Co-Chairs for prominently reflecting oceans and seas for consideration as a thematic Goal. We believe we are at a critical point in this process and therefore pleased to speak and support this focus area.

On the targets we would like to elaborate on proposed with the following points:

- b) **Take immediate action** to, restore and protect marine ecosystems, including by halting and preventing ocean acidification and **by adopting measures necessary to enhance ocean scientific information.**
- c) **Take immediate action** to maintain or restore all stock at least to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, **with the aim of achieving this goal in the shortest time feasible as determined by their biological characteristics. Where overfishing is occurring, take immediate action to adopt science based management plans reducing or suspending fishing catch and effort that commensurate with the status of the stock to ensure that by 2020 overfishing has ended.**
- e) **Take immediate action to, in accordance with relevant commitments, including those made in the JPOI and TFWW (The Future We Want)** to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices
- f) by 2020 establish Marine Protected Areas, **in accordance with best available science and consistent with existing commitments**
- g) **by 2020**, eliminate fishing subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing

We would suggest the inclusion of the following targets;

- By 2030, improve equity and access to fisheries and markets by, subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers and women fishers, as well as indigenous people in developing States, particularly small island developing States
- By 2030, increase by [x%] support for sustainable tourism activities, including through microcredit initiatives for the poor, indigenous peoples and local communities in areas with high eco-tourism potential, and relevant capacity building in developing countries

On means of implementation allow me to highlight some key points for consideration:

Provide the technical, technological and financial support to develop and enhance human and institutional capacities including investment in the following areas:

- Monitoring and predicting coral bleaching events and improve strategies to protect and conserve coral reef ecosystems.
- Ensuring a global network to monitor ocean acidification
- Enhance and implement the regime for monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels in the efforts to eradicate IUU fishing
- Enhance participation of developing countries especially SIDS in marine and fisheries-related opportunities, so as to enable them to receive greater benefits from sustainable fisheries, to develop their own fisheries, and to improve their market access
- Support developing countries' in particular SIDS in marine scientific and technological capacity, including through the establishment of dedicated regional oceanographic centers with support from the UN system and relevant regional organizations.

Regional and global programs are in particular relevant for understanding, assessing and monitoring global ocean stressors, as well as provide adequate forecasts and projections of global changes.

I thank you.