United Nations Ocean Dialogue 2026

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Distr.: General
31 August 2026

Original: English

Ocean and climate change dialogue 2026

Informal summary report by the co-facilitators of the ocean and climate change dialogue 2026

Summary

The ocean and climate change dialogue was mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session. The 2026 dialogue was held in hybrid mode on 10 and 11 June 2026, in conjunction with the sixty-fourth session of the subsidiary bodies in Bonn, Germany. This report provides a summary of the discussions that took place on three topics, chosen in consultation with Parties and observers, namely ocean-based priorities in nationally determined contributions; means of implementation; and ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies and international cooperation.

The report summarizes the deliberations and discussions and provides key messages for consideration by Parties and observers as they prepare for the Conference of the Parties at its thirty-first session.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AGN	African Group of Negotiators
AILAC	Independent Association of Latin America and the Caribbean
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BBNJ Agreement	Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
CARE Principles	Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
EU	European Union
FAIR Principles	findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	greenhouse gas
GCAA	Global Climate Action Agenda
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GST	Global Stocktake
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LDC	least developed country
mCDR	marine carbon dioxide removal
MDB	multilateral development bank
MEA	multilateral environmental agreements
MOI	means of implementation
MPA	marine protected area
NAP	national adaptation plan
NBSAPs	national biodiversity strategies and action plans
NDC	nationally determined contribution
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SIDS	small island developing State(s)

I. Key messages

1. We, Sivendra Michael and Ulrik Lenaerts, the co-facilitators of the 2026 ocean and climate change dialogue, have prepared these key messages, reflecting the discussions held throughout the dialogue, as well as the submissions received from Parties and observers on the dialogue's three topics, its future evolution and considerations for COP 31.

2. Through these key messages, we seek to support Parties and observers in advancing implementation of ocean-based climate action and ambition under the UNFCCC process. They reflect the vision articulated in our letter to Parties and observers on the role of the dialogue in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and we hope they will help to contribute to preparations for an ambitious ocean-related outcome at COP 31.

A. Ocean-based priorities in the NDCs

3. Ocean-based priorities in NDCs represent a major opportunity to enhance climate ambition and accelerate implementation.

(a) Recognize the interconnected mitigation and adaptation co-benefits of ocean-based climate action and strengthen the integration of ocean-based priorities in NDCs to make ocean–climate action more practical, investable and scalable;

(b) Promote awareness of ocean-based mitigation opportunities, including renewable energy and maritime decarbonization measures, as appropriate to national circumstances and development priorities;

(c) Use the GST2 to track progress regarding the implementation of ocean-based measures in the NDCs to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

4. Ocean-based climate action must be nationally determined, integrated across sectors and coordinated across institutions, while drawing on the best available science including traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems.

(a) Ocean-based climate action must reflect countries' national circumstances and development priorities, recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to integrating ocean priorities into NDCs;

(b) Strengthen coordination across sectors and institutions, while drawing on the best available science and knowledge, including traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems where available, to support coherent, effective and inclusive implementation.

5. **Strengthening measurement, accounting and assessment approaches is essential to support implementation, track progress and scale ocean-based climate action**.

(a) Continue the inclusion of a section on ocean-based action in UNFCCC synthesis reports on the NDCs and advance integration of ocean-based action in the enhanced transparency system, including through the review of its modalities, procedures and guidelines, as appropriate;

(b) Advance robust methodologies, monitoring systems, baseline data and accounting approaches for blue carbon ecosystems, including mangroves, coastal wetlands and seagrasses, to support evidence-based decision-making, implementation and investment in NDCs and high-integrity mitigation outcomes;

(c) Strengthen indicators and assessment approaches to track the implementation of ocean-related NDC commitments, including their breadth, depth, sectoral coverage and enabling conditions, and to capture ecosystem functionality and biodiversity outcomes.

B. Means of implementation

6. Scale up accessible, predictable and fit-for-purpose finance to translate ocean-based climate ambition into implementation.

(a) Strengthen access to finance for ocean-based climate action, recognizing the special circumstances and vulnerabilities of SIDS and LDCs, by addressing barriers such as complex approval and reporting procedures, restrictive eligibility criteria, high transaction and project preparation costs, fragmented funding windows and limited institutional capacity, and encourage MDBs and climate funds to adjust their risk appetites and access modalities to better accommodate ocean-based projects and the specific circumstances of vulnerable countries seeking to deliver climate action;

(b) Promote a whole-of-finance approach that combines public, concessional, private and blended finance, including through innovative financial instruments, enabling policy and regulatory frameworks, dedicated financing channels and stronger engagement with multilateral climate funds, including by leveraging opportunities under GEF-9, MDBs and private investors;

(c) Promote tailored financing that aligns available finance with national ocean priorities, supports aggregation and community- and women-led initiatives, and recognizes long-term social, environmental and resilience benefits.

7. Strengthen capacity-building and technology transfer to support the implementation of ocean-based climate action.

(a) Support technology development and transfer based on country-identified needs and national circumstances, including through technology needs assessments, information-sharing and partnerships that facilitate access to appropriate technologies and expertise;

(b) Strengthen research, innovation and ocean science capacity, including ocean observations and data, to address knowledge gaps and support project design, implementation and access to finance, with appropriate environmental and social safeguards;

(c) Strengthen institutional and technical capacity for project preparation and implementation, including development of bankable ocean project pipelines, through coordination among finance, planning and environment institutions, partnerships, regional and South–South cooperation, peer learning and information-sharing platforms.

8. Use the 2026 SCF Forum on Financing Climate Action for Water Systems and the Ocean to identify barriers to ocean–climate finance, showcase practical solutions and good practices, strengthen the visibility and tracking of ocean–climate finance, and strengthen alignment between available finance and the needs and priorities identified by Parties.

C. Ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies and international cooperation

9. Strengthen international cooperation and coherence across the Rio Conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements to advance ocean–climate–biodiversity action.

(a) Strengthen cooperation among the Rio Conventions and other relevant MEAs, by enhancing collaboration among relevant focal points, harmonizing indicators, monitoring and reporting, developing joint technical guidance and convening national and international dialogues on cross-cutting ocean–climate–biodiversity issues, while respecting the distinct mandates and governance arrangements of each process;

(b) Use the UNFCCC agenda item on cooperation with other international organizations, the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the KMGBF global review, to strengthen coordination and policy coherence, identify implementation gaps and lessons, and inform further work on ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies.

10. Strengthen coherence across NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs to accelerate ocean-based climate action.

(a) Strengthen alignment among NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs, national focal points and relevant institutions, including through cross-ministerial coordination and mapping of priorities to identify overlaps, align targets and indicators and streamline monitoring and reporting processes while reducing duplication and reporting burdens;

(b) Strengthen integrated approaches across marine and coastal sectors and promote regional cooperation to maximize climate, biodiversity and sustainable development co-benefits and support more effective use of available finance.

11. Strengthen complementarity and cooperation between the BBNJ Agreement, the Paris Agreement and other relevant ocean, climate and biodiversity frameworks to advance synergies and international cooperation. Encourage enhanced cooperation through the BBNJ Agreement's cooperation provisions and the arrangements developed by the Preparatory Commission, to support complementarity, capacity-building, marine technology transfer and coherent implementation, while respecting the BBNJ Agreement's distinct mandate and governance arrangements.

D. Future of the dialogue and considerations by the Conference of the Parties at its thirty-first session

12. Elevate ocean-based climate action as a cross-cutting climate priority through the Pre-COP and COP 31. Strengthen the political uptake of the dialogue's findings in relevant Pre-COP and COP 31 outcomes, Presidency initiatives and the GCAA, while strengthening recognition of the ocean–climate nexus and building momentum for ocean-related outcomes.

13. **Strengthen implementation of the Glasgow mandate through more systematic integration of ocean considerations across the UNFCCC process**. Encourage relevant constituted bodies and work programmes to include, as appropriate, a standing agenda item to report on progress in integrating ocean-related activities, and to promote the uptake of the dialogue's annual key messages and outcomes in relevant UNFCCC processes, workplans and activities.

14. **Develop a multi-year road map for the dialogue aligned with the Paris Agreement ambition and implementation cycle**. We encourage initiating the consideration of a multi-year road map and its possible elements aligned with the ambition and implementation cycle of the Paris Agreement, with a view to ensuring continuity between dialogue sessions, identifying entry points for ocean action across relevant UNFCCC processes, and strengthening follow-up, tracking and uptake of dialogue outcomes, to inform the 2027 informal exchange of views and the dialogue. The incoming co-facilitators for the biennium 2027–2028 dialogue could consider inviting submissions from Parties and observers on such a multi-year approach.

II. Introduction

15. At COP 25 in the Chile Madrid Time for Action (decision 1/CP.25), Parties mandated the first dialogue, drawing upon the knowledge and scientific findings from the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a changing climate.

16. At COP 26, in the Glasgow Climate Pact 2021 (decision 1/CP.26, paras. 60 and 61), Parties invited the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandates and workplans and to report on these activities within the existing reporting processes. Parties also invited the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to hold an annual dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action.

17. At COP 27 in 2022, in the COP Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (decision 1/CP.27, para. 50) and the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (decision 1/CMA.4, para.

79) Parties were encouraged to consider, as appropriate, ocean-based action in their national climate goals and in the implementation of these goals, including but not limited to NDCs, long-term strategies and adaptation communications. Furthermore, Parties decided that, from 2023, the annual dialogue would be facilitated by two co-facilitators, selected by Parties biennially, who are responsible for deciding the topics and conducting the dialogue in consultation with Parties and observers.

18. Accordingly, as the co-facilitators for the 2026 dialogue, on 26 and 27 March 2026, we convened a virtual informal exchange of views with Parties and observers, scheduled to accommodate various time zones. Prior to the exchange of views, in our letter to Parties and observers dated 12 March 2026, we presented our vision for the 2026 dialogue as a facilitative platform for Parties and observers to share experiences and foster international cooperation by supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement policy cycle.

19. Subsequently, we identified three priority areas and invited Parties and observers to focus the exchange of views on the possible topics for the 2026 dialogue: (a) ocean-based priorities in the NDCs; (b) MOI; and (c) ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies and international cooperation. During the exchange of views, we encouraged Parties and observers to focus their interventions on the priority topics, expected COP 31 outcomes and structure for the dialogue.

20. Eleven Parties and groups of Parties, including the COP 31 Presidency and 18 observers and groups of observers, provided their oral views and/or written statements at the exchange of views. Based on the exchange and statements from Parties and observers, we selected the dialogue topics and the structure. The information note, circulated in advance of the dialogue to help prepare Parties and observers, contains the summary of proceedings of the exchange of views on the topics, structure and agenda of the dialogue and guiding questions for discussions. Annex 2 to the information note contains relevant updates by UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes in accordance with the Glasgow mandate, and inputs from United Nations agencies highlighting relevant ocean-based processes, technical expertise, good practices and sector-specific initiatives for the 2026 dialogue.

III. Summary of the dialogue proceedings

21. The dialogue was held on 10 and 11 June 2026 in hybrid mode, in English, at the World Conference Centre Bonn, in conjunction with the sixty-fourth sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

22. Day 1 started with a welcome by us and the secretariat, followed by a high-level opening from the Vice-Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, Carol Franco, and Ali D Mohamed speaking on behalf of the Our Ocean Conference host, Kenya. The opening was followed by a COP 31 Presidency segment on the ocean, with statements from the COP 31 Pacific Ocean Envoy (The Honourable Inia B. Seruiratu), Australia (Sally Box) and Türkiye (Tuğba Dinçbaş), followed by plenary interventions and a question-and-answer session. The remaining proceedings focused on setting the scene on the three topics. Accordingly, a set of three panels comprising Parties and experts, introduced each of the dialogue topics and shared their respective national experiences and relevant initiatives. Each panel was followed by a plenary session, allowing time for short interventions and the question-and-answer session.

23. Day 2 was focused on defining the outcome for the dialogue for COP 31. Following high-level remarks from the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson, we launched the world café-style breakout group discussions on the topics with appointed moderators and rapporteurs. These discussions focused on good practices at the national and regional level, and knowledge-exchange based on the guiding questions prepared by us.

24. Thereafter we resumed for a plenary session for reporting back on the emerging key messages presented by one representative per topic. Additionally, we invited a few Parties and observers to highlight good practices and lessons learned from their national and regional

contexts in integrating ocean-based action into their NDCs, advancing MOI, strengthening synergies and promoting international cooperation. Due to time constraints, we invited Parties and observers in advance and during the dialogue to share their plenary statements that were published on the event web page. Twenty-nine Parties and groups of Parties and 21 observers provided their written and/or oral statements. Thereafter, we summarized the discussions and key messages emerging from both days with the way forward and closed the dialogue.

25. All information on the dialogue, including the detailed agenda, the panel presentations, plenary interventions, statements and submissions by Parties and observers, is available on the dialogue event webpage. The webcast of the first day's proceedings is available here, and of the second day's proceedings is available here.

IV. Summary of the discussions

A. Ocean-based priorities in nationally determined contributions

29. The panel, plenary interventions, written submissions and breakout group discussions highlighted the following key messages:

(a) **Ocean-based priorities in NDCs can strengthen climate ambition and accelerate implementation**, including through coastal resilience, sustainable coastal tourism, blue carbon and marine ecosystem conservation and restoration, sustainable fisheries and aquatic food systems, ocean-based renewable energy and maritime transport decarbonization;

(b) **Ocean-based NDC implementation should remain nationally determined and reflect national circumstances** and local realities, including national development priorities, geography and capabilities, while drawing on the best available science and the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

(c) **Ocean measures should be integrated across sectors and supported by strong institutional coordination and governance**, with clear responsibilities, accountability and collaboration across relevant ministries and sectors;

(d) **Ocean-based climate action can deliver interconnected mitigation and adaptation benefits,** including through fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic blue foods, as well as ecosystem conservation, coastal protection, food security, livelihoods and sustainable economic development;

(e) **Stronger measurement, carbon accounting and assessment approaches are needed to track ocean-based NDC implementation**, including robust methodologies, monitoring systems, baseline data and accounting approaches for blue carbon and other ocean-based mitigation, as well as indicators that capture ecosystem functionality, biodiversity outcomes and implementation progress beyond the existence of commitments or area-based targets;

(f) **Greater attention is needed to ocean-based mitigation opportunities**, including renewable energy and maritime decarbonization, as well as to addressing emerging climate risks such as ocean warming, acidification, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

30. **Ocean-based NDC implementation should remain nationally determined and reflect national circumstances**. Participants emphasized that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to integrating ocean priorities into NDCs, and that ocean-related actions should reflect countries' national circumstances, development priorities, capabilities, geography and economic structure.

31. **Enhance climate ambition through ocean-based priorities in NDCs**. Participants identified ocean-based priorities as an opportunity to strengthen mitigation and adaptation ambition and accelerate implementation. Key areas included coastal resilience; conservation and restoration of mangroves, seagrasses, coastal wetlands and other blue carbon ecosystems;

sustainable fisheries and aquatic food systems; ocean-based renewable energy; maritime transport decarbonization; and sustainable coastal tourism.

32. **Examples highlighted** included Singapore's transition of harbour craft towards low- and zero-emission fuels, mangrove restoration targets in Belize and Jamaica and Mexico's coastal and marine ecosystem restoration target. Examples presented by AGN included coastal resilience measures in Liberia and Mozambique, sustainable fisheries in Mauritania, blue carbon restoration in Nigeria and Guinea, and coral reef ecosystem protection in Comoros and Djibouti. Participants also highlighted tools and guidance supporting mangrove conservation and restoration, including the Global Mangrove Watch, the Mangrove Breakthrough, Global Mangrove Alliance best-practice guidance, and Kenya's National Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines.

33. **Implementation mechanisms can help translate ocean-related NDC commitments into action**. **Ana Paula Prates (Brazil)** introduced the 2026 Blue NDC Implementation Taskforce, co-chaired with France, as a mechanism to help Parties translate ocean-related commitments into action, alongside the Blue Package, the ocean axis of the GCAA and the Belém Mission to 1.5. Brazil also highlighted its national climate plan as an example of implementation of its NDC and NAP while advancing an integrated ocean–climate–biodiversity agenda.

34. **Ocean-based climate action provides interconnected mitigation and adaptation co-benefits**. Participants emphasized that ocean actions contribute simultaneously to ecosystem conservation, food security, livelihoods, coastal protection and sustainable economic development, with Fiji's MPAs as an example. Recognizing these multiple benefits was considered important for tracking progress, mobilizing finance and strengthening implementation.

35. **Integrate ocean measures across sectors and strengthen institutional coordination and implementation capacity**. Participants emphasized the need to mainstream ocean priorities across relevant ministries and sectors, with clear responsibilities, accountability mechanisms, cross-ministerial collaboration and partnerships with local actors. The 2025 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ocean-related Ministers' Meeting was highlighted as an example of coordination. Participants noted that scaling up ocean-based climate action through NDCs can strengthen coordination across marine and coastal sectors and provide opportunities to integrate just transition considerations, sustainability principles and spatial planning into programmes and projects.

36. Evidence presented by **Jonathan Baines (World Resources Institute)** from 358 ocean-related support requests from 59 countries submitted through the NDC Partnership showed that governance, institutional coordination, monitoring systems and capacity-building consistently accompany requests for financial support across income groups, highlighting the importance of strengthening enabling conditions for attracting finance and scaling ocean-based climate action. The Blue NDC Implementation Taskforce and the Blue NDC Challenge were presented as mechanisms to complement existing implementation support provided through the NDC Partnership and the Global Implementation Accelerator.

37. **Strengthen ocean science, data and observations**. Enhanced international cooperation on blue carbon, cross-sectoral coordination and investment in ocean observations were identified as critical enablers of evidence-based adaptation, mitigation and sustainable ocean management. **Karen Evans (IOC-UNESCO)** highlighted limited access to baseline information on blue carbon ecosystems and encouraged Parties to strengthen ecosystem monitoring, national science systems, ocean observing networks and early warning systems, and to share data according to FAIR and CARE principles through GOOS.

38. **Address blue carbon barriers by improving scientific guidance and blue carbon methodologies**. Participants highlighted technical and methodological barriers to scaling blue carbon action, including challenges related to carbon accounting methodologies and monitoring systems. They called for improved standardized GHG accounting methodologies for ocean-based sectors and blue carbon to support implementation and facilitate access to finance. The Norway-Pacific Ocean-Climate Scholarship Programme and the Republic of Korea highlighted their ongoing work to improve GHG accounting methodologies for blue carbon ecosystems.

39. **Hiratsuka Jiro (Japan)** presented Japan's experience in operationalizing blue carbon measures within its NDC, demonstrating how strong national institutions and methodologies can support implementation. Japan has incorporated blue carbon measures through coastal wetlands into its NDC, established quantified blue carbon removal targets for 2035 and 2040 through its Plan for Global Warming Countermeasure, and made significant advances in GHG inventory reporting, including the first global reporting of seagrass meadows and seaweed beds. Supporting measures include interministerial coordination, financial support, a new three-year blue carbon demonstration programme, the J-Blue Credit system, biodiversity act, participation in the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, and a compilation of local blue carbon initiatives to facilitate knowledge-sharing.

40. **Strengthen indicators and assessment approaches**. Participants called for improved indicators and assessment approaches that go beyond the existence of commitments to assess their breadth, depth, sectoral coverage and enabling conditions for implementation. They highlighted the importance of indicators and targets that measure ecosystem functionality and biodiversity thresholds rather than focusing only on hectares protected or restored.

41. **Strengthen the integration of fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic blue foods**. Participants highlighted the importance of fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic blue foods for food security, livelihoods, biodiversity and climate resilience and called for improved understanding of ocean–climate–food security linkages. The Aquatic Blue Food Coalition and the NDC-Fish guidelines and Aqua-Adapt tool of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations were noted as supporting implementation.

42. **Expand attention to ocean-based mitigation measures**. Participants noted that ocean-based NDCs remain largely focused on adaptation and encouraged greater attention to mitigation opportunities. Participants pointed to mitigation potential through renewable energy, including port electrification and green hydrogen, while also highlighting market barriers. They highlighted the importance of industry engagement and private sector awareness in accelerating implementation. Participants highlighted diversification of energy sources as a key opportunity. Chile highlighted bilateral cooperation with Germany on green hydrogen and with the EU on green maritime corridors, while the Republic of Korea highlighted shipping, fisheries and blue carbon as priority ocean-related NDC areas, including support for eco-friendly vessels through subsidies.

43. **Address emerging climate risks**. Participants noted that coastal erosion, eutrophication, ocean warming, ocean acidification and sea level rise should be recognized as implementation challenges and potential loss-and-damage concerns, rather than only adaptation issues, and highlighted limits to adaptation in offshore, high-seas and deep-sea environments.

44. **Strengthen regional collaboration and partnerships**. Participants highlighted regional cooperation, strategic partnerships, engagement with non-State actors and bilateral collaboration as important means of strengthening the delivery of NDCs. Examples included the Regional Pacific NDC Hub, EU OceanEye, the Middle East Green Initiative, Saudi Green Initiative, the Niue NOW Trust Fund and the Blue NDC Challenge as opportunities to connect Parties with support providers, strengthen regional collaboration, exchange lessons and practices and showcase ocean-based mitigation and adaptation solutions. Participants highlighted opportunities to strengthen integrated action across marine and coastal sectors, ensuring that mitigation and adaptation go hand in hand.

45. **Strengthen knowledge-sharing**. Participants emphasized the need for accessible knowledge resources, including translation into local languages, improved communication between technical experts, decision makers and local communities, and scaling up of successful policies and practices through peer learning and platforms such as the GCAA. Participants also highlighted the importance of consolidating guidance, best practices, scientific research and technical resources, while ensuring longer-term approaches that account for baseline data collection, ecosystem restoration, fisheries management, infrastructure development and institutional capacity-building. They highlighted Pre-COP and COP 31 sessions, the Indonesia Ocean Impact Summit and the Blue NDC Challenge as opportunities to connect Parties with support providers, strengthen regional collaboration,

exchange lessons and practices and showcase ocean-based mitigation and adaptation solutions.

46. **Ocean-based climate action should uphold ecosystem integrity, human rights and Indigenous rights and integrate traditional, Indigenous and local knowledge systems**. Participants stressed the importance of meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and small-scale fishers, including respect for free, prior and informed consent and food sovereignty in the design and implementation of ocean-based climate action. Vanuatu highlighted that integrating oceans into NDCs should go hand in hand with ecosystem protection, recognition of Indigenous rights and greater engagement with customary marine governance systems.

B. Ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies and international cooperation

47. The panel, plenary interventions, written submissions and breakout group discussions highlighted the following key messages:

(a) **Strengthen coherence across NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs and relevant national and sectoral frameworks to advance integrated ocean–climate–biodiversity action**. Greater coherence among NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs and national ocean and blue economy policies can maximize climate, biodiversity and sustainable development benefits, including through integrated approaches to blue carbon, ecosystem protection and nature-based solutions, reducing duplication risks and supporting integrated implementation;

(b) **Effective institutional coordination and capacity are needed to translate synergies into implementation**. Clear mandates, coordination among relevant ministries and focal points, aligned indicators and reporting processes, technical capacity and reduced reporting burdens are needed to strengthen implementation across the ocean–climate–biodiversity frameworks;

(c) **Ocean–climate–biodiversity action should be grounded in the best available science and traditional knowledge**. Stronger ocean observations, data, monitoring and knowledge exchange, including the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, are needed to support evidence-based and inclusive implementation;

(d) **Protecting and restoring ocean ecosystems and maintaining ecosystem integrity are central to climate, biodiversity and sustainable development objectives**. Integrated approaches should recognize ecosystem connectivity and multiple ecosystem services while addressing potentially interconnected impacts from activities such as fishing, mining and mCDR;

(e) **International cooperation is essential to strengthen coherence across ocean, climate and biodiversity frameworks**. Cooperation among the Rio Conventions and relevant international instruments, including the Paris Agreement, BBNJ Agreement, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organization and the Ramsar Convention, can improve coordination, knowledge-sharing, reporting and implementation;

(f) **The dialogue can help advance practical synergies and coherent implementation across international frameworks**. The dialogue could provide a platform to identify complementarities, communicate outcomes across relevant processes and support coherent implementation, including in relation to the BBNJ Agreement.

48. **Advance ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies through coherent integrated national planning**. Participants emphasized that climate change and biodiversity loss should be addressed in a coherent and integrated manner, including through stronger alignment of NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs and national ocean policies. **Iván Vejar (Chile),** speaking on behalf of AILAC, highlighted the importance of recognizing natural carbon sinks for sequestering carbon and enhancing resilience to climate impacts with a suggestion to include GHG sinks in the Mitigation Work Programme. AILAC emphasized strengthening coherence between NDCs and NBSAPs to maximize the benefits of integrated national planning, particularly in relation to KMGBF Target 8, and integrating mitigation and adaptation

actions. AILAC also called for greater investment in marine ecosystems and voluntary guidance on integrating ocean-based actions into NDCs.

49. **Link climate and biodiversity planning and strengthen blue carbon action**. Participants highlighted the importance of linking NDCs with NBSAPs and strengthening recognition of blue carbon ecosystems, including mangroves, coastal wetlands and seagrasses, noting the need for updated scientific guidance, longer-term approaches to ecosystem restoration and improved blue carbon accounting, particularly given capacity constraints. Examples of integrated national approaches included the Solomon Islands' NDC 3.0, National Ocean Policy and NBSAP; Costa Rica's National Blue Carbon Strategy and Mexico's protection of the El Conchalito Estuary. The United Kingdom highlighted measures supporting nature restoration and blue carbon accounting, while Comoros emphasized nature-based solutions, MPAs and sustainable blue economies.

50. **Country experience on integrated ocean–climate–biodiversity action**. **Leel Rendani (Sri Lanka)** highlighted the importance of coastal and marine ecosystems for biodiversity, fisheries and livelihoods and the impacts of extreme weather events on coastal communities. The presentation focused on Sri Lanka's NDC measures, including MPAs and climate-resilient fisheries, while noting challenges related to interministerial coordination, MPA management, declining mangrove coverage and gaps in mapping and monitoring blue carbon stock. Sri Lanka presented progress in aligning its NBSAP with the KMGBF and towards ratification of the BBNJ Agreement, and called for strengthening blue carbon monitoring infrastructure, building technical capacity, strengthening data and enabling technology transfer.

51. **Strengthen policy coherence across national frameworks and institutions**. Participants highlighted the need to strengthen coordination mechanisms, including collaboration among focal points and agencies, to support integrated ocean–climate–biodiversity action. They emphasized that greater coherence among NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs can maximize climate and biodiversity benefits, reduce duplication and strengthen implementation, including through stronger interministerial coordination and alignment of planning and reporting processes. National ocean policies and plans were recognized as important mechanisms for connecting ocean, climate and biodiversity priorities and supporting integrated decision-making. Participants stressed the need to move beyond siloed approaches and address climate–biodiversity linkages across both adaptation and mitigation, noting that misalignment across policy and legal frameworks can create risks for biodiversity, human rights and ecosystem integrity.

52. **Examples of integrated national governance and planning**. Tuvalu's Integrated Ocean Management Advisor was highlighted as an institutional mechanism for connecting ocean priorities with national policy processes. Indonesia coordinates BBNJ, CBD and United Nations Ocean Conference responsibilities under one ministry; Japan highlighted stronger links between NAP and NBSAP processes through integrated climate and biodiversity responsibilities; and Singapore highlighted how mangroves and seagrasses support multiple objectives across NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs.

53. **Strengthen institutional capacity and coordination**. Participants highlighted the importance of clear mandates, legal and scientific frameworks and coordination mechanisms involving relevant sectors and agencies. They emphasized the value of knowledge exchange among policymakers, scientists and practitioners and noted that policy coherence should reflect local realities, scientific knowledge and front-line community experiences. Participants called for stronger collaboration among NDC, NAP and NBSAP focal points, including harmonized definitions, targets, indicators and reporting processes, standardized approaches to national reporting obligations, and mapping exercises to identify overlaps and strengthen coherence across frameworks. Examples included the Solomon Islands Ocean 12 Technical Working Group, Canada's interdepartmental coordination mechanisms, and Kenya's cross-ministerial mangrove committees. Regional cooperation was recognized as important for strengthening coordination. Participants also called for stronger monitoring, measurement, reporting and verification capacity, harmonized indicators and definitions and reduced reporting burdens, particularly for SIDS.

54. **Advance integrated ocean management to strengthen synergies**. Participants highlighted the need to better reflect blue carbon ecosystems, biodiversity connectivity, ocean species and ecosystem services in NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs. They noted that recognizing these links can support outcomes across biodiversity conservation, climate action, food systems, fisheries, ecosystem services and human well-being. Examples from the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Chile, Canada, EU Nature Restoration Regulation and European Ocean Pact demonstrated how integrated governance, shared targets and stakeholder engagement can strengthen implementation.

55. **Recognize ocean interconnectedness**. Participants noted the interconnectedness of the ocean and the need for international cooperation, noting that activities such as mining, fishing and mCDR interventions can have interconnected impacts, with reference made to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Motions 032 and 035 and the ongoing negotiations at the International Seabed Authority on the Mining Code. Some highlighted the protection of marine wildlife as an important link between the ocean, climate and biodiversity agendas.

56. **Strengthen cooperation across the Rio Conventions and other relevant international frameworks**. Participants called for stronger cooperation across the Rio Conventions and other relevant international frameworks, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organization and the Ramsar Convention. Participants called for harmonized indicators, monitoring systems and reporting processes to reduce duplication and administrative burden, strengthened cooperation among national focal points, national-level dialogues on cross-cutting issues, and the development of joint technical guidance to support coordinated implementation. Some suggested that the dialogue could provide recommendations to inform discussions on the Cooperation with Other International Organizations agenda item and promote greater consideration of ocean issues within the Joint Liaison Group.

57. **Strengthen cooperation through the CBD process**. **Tristan Tyrrell (CBD secretariat)** highlighted the CBD's global review of progress under the KMGBF, including Target 8 and other ocean–climate-related targets, as an opportunity to strengthen the knowledge base on ocean–climate issues and identify implementation gaps. The secretariat also highlighted the outcomes of its expert workshop on areas beyond national jurisdiction as relevant to strengthening understanding of the ocean–biodiversity–climate nexus.

58. **Advance cooperation through the BBNJ Agreement**. Participants welcomed the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement, noting that it is a positive example of international cooperation on ocean preservation. They highlighted the opportunity to strengthen ocean governance, enhance synergies between biodiversity protection and climate action, and support national implementation through cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks, including the Paris Agreement. Participants noted that the BBNJ Agreement remains at an early stage of implementation and provides opportunities to learn from existing climate and biodiversity processes, avoid duplication, improve reporting and strengthen complementarity across frameworks. They emphasized that implementation approaches should reflect different national circumstances and capacities.

59. **Valentina Germani (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea)** highlighted the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement and its role in strengthening cooperation and coordination in areas beyond national jurisdiction. She noted provisions on capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, as well as opportunities to strengthen cooperation with relevant international frameworks and avoid duplication. She noted that the third Preparatory Commission had adopted recommendations, including a draft decision on arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies, and suggested that the dialogue could provide a useful platform for discussing implementation of the BBNJ Agreement's cooperation provisions in relation to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

60. **Use the dialogue to advance cooperation and coherent implementation**. Participants proposed that the dialogue could serve as a mechanism to identify and advance practical synergies between the Paris Agreement, BBNJ Agreement and related ocean, biodiversity and sustainable development processes. The BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism

was highlighted as a potential tool for information-sharing and complementarity. Participants suggested considering a standing agenda item on ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies and international cooperation and formalizing the communication of dialogue outcomes across relevant international processes. They also highlighted the importance of reflecting ocean–climate–biodiversity linkages in the GST2 and improving coordination through ocean focal points.

61. **Strengthen ocean science, observations and knowledge for evidence-based synergistic action**. **Alessandra Lamotte (European Commission)** presented **OceanEye,** a flagship initiative to strengthen ocean observation and support the sustainability of GOOS. She highlighted sustained ocean observations as essential for protecting and restoring ocean health, supporting the blue economy, strengthening coastal resilience and maritime security, while noting challenges related to fragmented knowledge, insufficient funding and risks to sustained data collection and access. OceanEye's four pillars are EU governance, international cooperation, operational application, and education and skills, including a proposed international alliance with IOC-UNESCO to strengthen GOOS and support implementation of the Paris Agreement and BBNJ Agreement.

62. **Integrate ocean science and knowledge into climate and biodiversity planning**. Participants called for stronger integration of ocean observations and science into NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs, including ocean acidification, biodiversity connectivity, mesopelagic ecosystems, blue carbon and marine biodiversity monitoring. They emphasized the need for improved indicators, reporting frameworks, technical capacity and scientific understanding of the ocean carbon sink and continued research to address remaining knowledge gaps, as well as stronger collaboration among scientists, local institutions and communities. Participants stressed that international cooperation should be grounded in the best available science and should integrate the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, referring to the recently adopted United Nations General Assembly resolution affirming the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on State Obligations on Climate Change and recalling the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Advisory Opinion. The Belmont Forum was highlighted as an example of mobilizing public funding for transdisciplinary science and collaboration.

63. **Inclusive, rights-based approaches that integrate Indigenous and local knowledge are essential to strengthen coherence and effectiveness across ocean, climate and biodiversity action**. Participants emphasized the importance of meaningful participation, informed consent and integration of Indigenous Peoples' and local knowledge, local realities and community experiences across NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs. They highlighted the need for these perspectives to be reflected from local to global processes and across institutions and negotiation streams, noting examples such as Inuit-led and co-managed marine areas to inform ecosystem management, adaptation planning and biodiversity actions.

64. **Consider the application of mCDR technologies in the context of the best available science and the precautionary principle**. Participants called for the application of the precautionary principle and the best available science to mCDR technologies, marine geoengineering and deep-sea activities, while also highlighting the need for further transparent and collaborative research to better understand their mitigation potential, costs, co-benefits, potential adverse effects, and governance requirements. The Africa mCDR Road Map and the emerging Africa mCDR Partnership, as well as Singapore's seawater carbon removal facility, were cited as examples of continued research on mCDR technologies in an environmentally safe manner and strengthened partnerships. In this regard, reference was made to the forthcoming 2027 IPCC Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies, Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (Additional Guidance).

C. Means of implementation

65. The panel, plenary interventions, written submissions and breakout group discussions highlighted the following key messages:

(a) **Finance remains the key enabler — and the key constraint — of ocean-based climate action**. Ocean–climate finance remains significantly below identified needs, particularly for SIDS, LDCs and vulnerable coastal countries. The priority is not only to scale finance, but to make it predictable, accessible, flexible, concessional and better aligned with national circumstances and the timescales of ocean outcomes;

(b) **Scaling ocean–climate finance requires a whole-of-finance approach and stronger enabling conditions**. Public, concessional, private and blended finance, alongside innovative instruments and dedicated financing channels, need to be complemented by stronger policy and regulatory frameworks, improved access modalities, project preparation support and bankable investment pipelines;

(c) **The central bottleneck is often the ability to access and deploy finance, rather than the absence of ambition or financing opportunities**. Complex procedures, restrictive eligibility criteria, high transaction and project-preparation costs, fragmented funding windows, limited institutional capacity and a lack of bankable projects prevent countries from translating ocean–climate commitments into implementation;

(d) **Technology, capacity-building, science, data and ocean observations are essential MOI in their own right**. These enabling conditions need to be adequately financed and designed around country-identified needs, while bringing together scientific, Indigenous and traditional knowledge and ensuring that technology and capacity-building are accessible to SIDS, LDCs, coastal communities and small-scale actors;

(e) **Ocean–climate action requires integrated national approaches and stronger partnerships and coordination**. The cross-cutting nature of ocean issues calls for greater coordination across ministries, planning and financing processes, international conventions and institutions, as well as stronger regional, South–South and international cooperation;

(f) **The 2026 SCF Forum and wider financial processes can provide practical near-term opportunities to address these barriers and strengthen the visibility, accessibility and scale of ocean–climate finance**. These processes can help connect financing-system actors with country priorities and investable solutions, improve understanding and tracking of ocean–climate finance, and identify practical measures to strengthen access and project pipelines.

66. **Finance remains the key enabler and constraint of ocean-based climate action**. Participants highlighted that ocean-based climate action remains significantly underfunded relative to country needs, rising loss and damage impacts, and the conditional ocean commitments Parties have made in their NDCs, particularly the LDCs, SIDS and vulnerable coastal nations. Participants called for scaled-up, predictable, accessible and fit-for-purpose finance, including adequate and concessional public resources, and for developed countries to take the lead in the provision and mobilization of resources, including towards the goal of at least USD 1.3 trillion by 2035 and increased resources for adaptation. Participants also highlighted the need to improve the tracking and understanding of ocean-related finance needs and flows.

67. **Jens Sedemund (OECD) presented a methodology for tracking development finance for ocean-related activities**, addressing evidence gaps through indicators covering official development finance for the ocean economy, the sustainable ocean economy and land-based pollution affecting the marine environment. The OECD reported that ocean-related ODA commitments have increased over time but remained a small share of global ODA, at 1.3 per cent in 2024, with maritime transport, environmental protection and fisheries accounting for the majority of financing. OECD guidance identified priorities including promoting ocean-based economic development, ocean equity, healthy ocean ecosystems and ocean-based climate action; strengthening integrated ocean policies and institutions; using ODA to mobilize broader sources of finance; building capacity for an evolving ocean economy; and strengthening cross-border ocean governance and global coherence.

68. **Kassim Gawusu-Toure (AGN)** emphasized that implementation depends on predictable, concessional public finance and dedicated channels that can lower the risk for capital deployment. The presentation highlighted examples of ocean-based action already

reflected in African NDCs, while stressing that many of these commitments remain conditional on external support. AGN called for dedicated financing channels, stronger ocean observation systems, improved GHG inventory baselines and technical guidance that respects the no-additional-burden principle for developing countries.

69. **N. Charles Hamilton (Bermuda) on behalf of AOSIS,** presented on the MOI needs specific to SIDS and the vulnerabilities they face. AOSIS stressed that, despite being large ocean States, SIDS receive only a small share of funding for Sustainable Development Goal 14 and called for special treatment in access to finance given their severe capacity constraints. AOSIS also emphasized the need for technologies suited to the scale and circumstances of SIDS, proposing the establishment of a technology repository or information access centre in partnership with regional organizations. On capacity-building, it was underscored that support should be country-driven, responsive to national circumstances and closely linked to finance, technology transfer and implementation support. Several capacity-building activities, including pooling climate science expertise, were highlighted, such as the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science and the Caribbean Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies.

70. **Access to blue finance, including through innovative mechanisms, should be improved**. Participants also highlighted the importance of improving access to climate finance, including through innovative mechanisms such as parametric insurance, for adaptation, loss and damage and the development of investable projects. Mexico's Mesoamerican Reef Insurance programme was highlighted as an example combining parametric climate risk insurance with innovative financing mechanisms to support reef restoration.

71. **Ocean finance is real but hard to reach and severely under-scaled**. While financing opportunities do exist, access remains constrained by persistent barriers that limit the ability of countries and communities to translate ambition into implementation. These include complex and lengthy approval and reporting procedures; restrictive funding scope and eligibility criteria; high transaction and project preparation costs; shrinking bilateral finance; financing timelines that do not align with national budget cycles or the time required for ocean outcomes to materialize; and imbalances in the allocation of funding across ocean-related sectors. Participants also noted that perceptions of investment risk rarely reflect the realities of ocean-dependent communities, while definitions of return on investment often fail to capture long-term social and environmental value.

72. **A whole-of-finance approach needs to be matched by stronger enabling conditions, dedicated channels and a bankable pipeline**. Participants emphasized the importance of combining public, concessional, private and blended finance, supported by appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, to unlock investment in ocean-based climate action. Innovative instruments highlighted included blue bonds, sustainability-linked bonds, debt-for-nature conversions, Project Finance for Permanence initiatives, Nature Bonds, Coastal Resilience Assets, coral reef insurance, the Mangrove Breakthrough and Blue Carbon Plus. These approaches were recognized for their potential to reduce investment risks, mobilize private capital and support scalable conservation, adaptation and resilience outcomes. Participants also suggested exploring dedicated blue finance windows within existing climate funds to improve access to ocean-related finance.

73. **Predictable, flexible and accessible finance was identified as necessary to translate ambition into implementation**. Participants called for a broader mix of financing instruments, including bilateral finance, MDB finance, innovative instruments such as blue bonds and national trust funds, alongside technical assistance and capacity-building to develop evidence, identify needs and opportunities and prepare bankable projects. Indonesia's Coral Bond was cited as an example of an outcome-based financing instrument, Niue's Ocean Conservation Commitment as an example of a public–private 'careholder' model, and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs as an example of a blended finance vehicle supporting reef-positive enterprises.

74. **The missing link is often a bankable pipeline, not ambition**. Across the discussions, the lack of a pipeline of bankable ocean projects was identified as a core bottleneck. Participants stressed that NDC commitments need to be supported by enabling conditions at

the national and local level, including technical assistance, marine spatial planning, data collection, regulatory frameworks and resources for project preparation. They emphasized that project preparation should be treated as a critical stage of the financing cycle rather than an ancillary activity.

75. **Ocean action's cross-cutting nature and limited institutional capacity often prevent it from being prioritized within national planning and financing processes**. Ocean issues frequently struggle to be coordinated across ministries, as well as across national strategies, sectoral plans and funding proposals, including within Green Climate Fund and GEF readiness programmes. Fragmentation across numerous funding windows further deters SIDS and coastal countries from applying for available finance. Participants emphasized the need for stronger coordination between finance, planning and environment ministries, alongside more integrated approaches to ocean–climate action.

76. **Wenxin Li (GEF)** highlighted GEF's support for ocean-based climate action, noting that it has invested nearly USD 10 billion, leveraged over USD 62 billion in co-financing, and that more than one-third of ocean-related investments benefit SIDS and LDCs. As the financial mechanism for six MEAs, the GEF supports country-driven, integrated approaches to sustainable ocean management and conservation across national, regional and global levels, recognizing that ocean-based action requires linkages across biodiversity, climate change and international waters. The presentation highlighted integrated initiatives such as the Blue and Green Islands programme, the Food Systems programme, and knowledge-sharing through IW:LEARN, while noting that strengthening synergies across NDCs, NBSAPs, NAPs and other ocean-related planning processes, including under the BBNJ Agreement, may present further opportunities for integration to address the ocean–climate–biodiversity nexus. This is being further accelerated in GEF-9 (2026–2030) as financing for oceans is a priority for multiple GEF focal areas, integrated programmes and other funding windows, including the International Waters portfolio. GEF identified strengthening policy frameworks, mobilizing innovative finance and enabling carbon markets through blue carbon standards and Article 6 readiness as key priorities for scaling ocean finance, and highlighted the dialogue's role in identifying barriers and strengthening collaboration across Conventions.

77. **Finance must be designed around local contexts and needs**. Participants highlighted that investors often seek larger investment opportunities than community- and women-led ocean enterprises can offer, making aggregation mechanisms important for reaching an investable scale and providing smaller actors with access to capital. The Global Fund for Coral Reefs was cited as an example of a blended finance vehicle supporting smaller enterprises, while the GEF Small Grants Programme was highlighted as a community-level funding window reaching non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations. Fiji was cited as an example of redirecting harmful subsidies to mobilize domestic resources alongside external finance. Finance should therefore be designed around local contexts and needs, recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Participants also emphasized recognizing and supporting coastal women as key implementers and custodians of ocean-based solutions.

78. **Finance, technology and capacity-building need to be deployed holistically to deliver ocean-based climate action**. Participants identified strengthening institutional and technical capacities as a priority to enable Parties to design, access and implement ocean-related projects. Participants underscored the importance of having targeted, accessible and quality capacity-building programmes. Japan highlighted support for developing countries through the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, while Singapore shared capacity-building activities under the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

79. **Capacity-building, including data, institutional and technical capacity, should be affordable, needs-based and tailored to coastal communities, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and small-scale actors**. Participants called for durable capacity anchored in country-identified needs, including institutional strengthening, cross-sectoral coordination between finance and environment ministries, financial structuring, project preparation and the technical skills required to design and deliver ocean commitments. They also stressed the importance of integrating Indigenous and traditional knowledge into project design and implementation, alongside scientific knowledge and ensuring that capacity-building,

technology deployment and financing approaches are responsive to local contexts and priorities.

80. **Science, data, research, innovation and ocean observations are essential enabling conditions for implementation and access to finance**. Participants encouraged further efforts to address knowledge gaps, including those related to the ocean carbon sink, ocean acidification and impacts of marine industrial activities. Strengthened ocean observations, data and science, as well as measurement, reporting and verification capacity, were identified as critical to implementation, investment and tracking progress, while persistent gaps in ocean data and understanding remain important constraints. Participants therefore emphasized the need to maintain and expand sustained ocean-observing infrastructure such as the International Alliance for the Global Ocean Observing System and to strengthen research capacity and knowledge exchange, including through international and regional partnerships. Examples highlighted included GRID-Arendal Rapid Readiness Assessment as a model for assessing readiness before investing in capacity-building; the Global Ecosystem for Ocean Solutions; Horizon Europe; and GOOS Capacity Development, including its support for the participation of experts from SIDS and LDCs in global ocean-observing networks.

81. **Improved access to information, partnerships and coordination mechanisms can help countries navigate the ocean-finance landscape and develop investable solutions**. Participants highlighted the need to strengthen the collection and dissemination of information on financing opportunities, technologies and partnerships through centralized information platforms or ‘one-stop shops,’ alongside stronger stakeholder-convening and dialogue across sectors. IOC-UNESCO's Blue Carbon Finance Toolbox was highlighted as an example of such an initiative. Participants highlighted examples of bilateral, regional and international cooperation supporting technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and scientific capacity, including Japan's technical cooperation programmes, the University of Bergen–University of the South Pacific partnership, Portugal Ocean Fellowship, and the Chile–South Africa Alliance for Ocean Climate Innovation. Participants also stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation across international organizations and processes, including through South–South cooperation, regional partnerships and a joint MEA forum, to raise awareness of financing challenges and support countries in developing investable project pipelines.

82. **The 2026 SCF Forum can help advance implementation**. **Co-facilitators of the 2026 SCF Forum** (Isobel Bartholomew and Davi Bonavides) presented on the SCF's technical work, noting that while ocean priorities are increasingly reflected in national climate and development strategies, financing remains far below identified needs. They called for a whole-of-finance approach combining public and concessional finance, private investment, blended finance and other innovative financing approaches, with blue carbon finance and robust data and measurement systems as enabling conditions, while emphasizing stronger project preparation support, more robust investment pipelines, enhanced institutional capacity, improved access to modalities and coordinated approaches to implementation. They illustrated these challenges and opportunities through the cases of Vanuatu and Norway's Green Shipping Programme. They emphasized the complementary roles of the dialogue and the SCF Forum, with the dialogue helping to identify implementation progress, barriers and support needs, and with the SCF Forum facilitating practical solutions to scale up climate finance and the implementation of ocean-related priorities.

83. **The SCF Forum was identified as a practical and critical near-term opportunity to advance ocean–climate finance**. Participants highlighted the SCF Forum's potential to bring financing-system actors together, showcase locally led and investable solutions, and address persistent finance barriers. Suggested entry points included amplifying ocean action within national priorities, improving visibility of ocean–climate finance flows, raising awareness of support available through multilateral climate funds, unpacking project preparation requirements, ensuring the participation of communities and youth, and strengthening the tracking and reporting of ocean–climate finance through the SCF Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows, including through a dedicated ocean chapter.

84. **Strengthen the accessibility, coherence and visibility of ocean–climate finance through the SCF and complementary initiatives**. Participants emphasized that the 2026 SCF Forum provides an opportunity to enhance the accessibility, coherence and visibility of ocean-related climate finance, identify barriers, develop practical recommendations and strengthen alignment between available finance and Parties' priorities reflected in their NDCs. Some participants also called for greater integration of ocean–climate finance within SCF processes, including through the possible designation of an SCF ocean focal point. Participants also recognized the contribution of initiatives such as the Blue NDC Challenge, the NDC Partnership and the Blue Economy and Finance Forum in mobilizing resources, fostering partnerships and supporting implementation.

D. COP 31 considerations and future of the dialogue

85. The COP 31 Presidency segment, plenary interventions, written submissions and breakout group discussions highlighted several considerations for an ocean-based outcome at COP 31 and the future of the dialogue. Taken together, the discussions highlighted the following overarching key messages:

(a) **Elevate ocean-based climate action as a cross-cutting climate priority through the Pre-COP and COP 31**, strengthening recognition of the ocean–climate nexus and building momentum for ocean-related outcomes;

(b) **Move the dialogue beyond discussion towards implementation and strengthening uptake of its outcomes, including by operationalizing the Glasgow Climate Pact mandate**, strengthening integration across UNFCCC processes, work programmes and constituted bodies, and supporting Parties in integrating and delivering ocean-based action;

(c) **Establish a multi-year road map aligned with the ambition and implementation cycle of the Paris Agreement**, including identifying priorities and entry points, strengthening follow-up and tracking and ensuring continuity between dialogue sessions and key UNFCCC milestones;

(d) **Strengthen institutional coordination, science, knowledge exchange and cooperation,** while maintaining a dedicated focus on oceans and ensuring the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, fisheries and other ocean-dependent sectors;

(e) **Maintain the dialogue as a facilitative, balanced, Party-driven and technology-neutral platform**, while strengthening dissemination, accessibility, participation and the uptake of dialogue outcomes.

86. **Elevate the political importance of ocean-based climate action**. Participants identified the Pre-COP in Fiji and Tuvalu and COP 31 sessions as a unique and critical opportunity to elevate the political importance of ocean-based climate action and the ocean–climate nexus, recognizing ocean action as a cross-cutting climate priority, integrating ocean priorities into UNFCCC processes, and building momentum for robust outcomes for the ocean at COP 31. The emphasis placed on the ocean–climate nexus by the incoming COP 31 Presidencies was welcomed.

(a) **The Honourable Inia B. Seruiratu, COP 31 Pacific Ocean Envoy**, underscored the ocean's cultural, social and economic significance for Pacific communities and called for its full integration across the UNFCCC process, including mitigation, adaptation, finance and GST2. Priorities identified included sustainable fisheries, decarbonized maritime transport and the integration of traditional knowledge and science within NDCs. He reiterated his commitment for an ambitious ocean outcome at COP 31.

(b) **Ambassador Peter Thomson, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean**, emphasized the importance of the dialogue and the Pacific Pre-COP in delivering concrete recommendations for an ocean outcome at COP 31. He highlighted the need to strengthen ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies through enhanced cooperation across the Paris Agreement, KMGBF and BBNJ Agreement, unlock accessible

and adequate ocean-related climate finance, and accelerate the implementation of ocean-based measures in NDCs to raise climate ambition.

(c) **Dr. Tuğba Dinçbas** (Türkiye, COP 31 Presidency) highlighted the GCAA as a key vehicle for translating ocean–climate ambition into implementation. Emphasizing COP 31 as a 'COP of the Future' focused on delivery, she noted that Türkiye's approach to the ocean and seas agenda is guided by implementation, complementarity and inclusive cooperation and supported by implementation-oriented partnerships, advancing regional cooperation through the Climate Change Regional Activity Centre in Istanbul and implementation-focused initiatives including the Blue NDC Challenge and Blue Package. She underscored the dialogue's role in identifying practical pathways to advance ocean–climate action ahead of COP 31.

(d) **Sally Box (Australia, COP 31 Presidency)** emphasized the importance of elevating the ocean–climate nexus through Pre-COP and COP 31 by making ocean–climate action more practical, investable and scalable. She highlighted Australia's commitment to strengthening the integration of the ocean across UNFCCC processes, advancing ocean mitigation and adaptation action, and creating the enabling conditions and political momentum needed to invest in and translate ocean priorities in the NDCs, with a view to enhancing ocean–climate ambition across future climate strategies, plans and processes, including NDCs, NAPs, biennial transparency reports and GST2.

(e) **Ali Mohammed, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Kenya, and co-host of** Our Ocean Conference, presented on the Conference's six core action areas (MPAs, sustainable ocean economies, climate change, maritime security, sustainable fisheries and marine pollution) to underscore the dialogue as an essential bridge for informing the Conference outcomes and elevating political messaging on the ocean–climate nexus ahead of COP 31.

87. Strengthen implementation and uptake of dialogue outcomes.

(a) **Move beyond discussions towards implementation**. Participants encouraged the dialogue to become more akin to an implementation forum, supporting Parties in integrating and delivering ocean-based measures, identifying implementation needs, providing recommendations to UNFCCC workstreams and constituted bodies, and serving as a bridge to and across UNFCCC processes. Participants also encouraged the dialogue to strengthen its role in direction-setting, implementation, transparency and integration of ocean-based climate action across relevant workstreams, constituted bodies and work programmes;

(b) **Operationalize the Glasgow Climate Pact mandate**. Participants emphasized that recommendations arising from the dialogue should inform relevant UNFCCC processes and decisions and that ocean action should be systematically embedded in existing processes, instruments and decisions, rather than through the creation of new tracks. They emphasized the need to operationalize the Glasgow Climate Pact mandate already in place by strengthening the integration of ocean-based action across UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes and ensuring that dialogue outcomes are reflected in COP and CMA discussions and decisions;

(c) **Strengthen institutional coordination and tracking**. Participants emphasized the need for a more systematic approach to tracking progress and strengthening coherence of ocean considerations across UNFCCC processes. Suggestions included establishing a standing item in the dialogue on progress towards the Glasgow mandate, inviting updates from constituted bodies and work programmes, establishing a standing item for constituted bodies to report on progress in integrating ocean-based action, capturing systematic updates through the dialogue's informal summary report, and encouraging the nomination of ocean focal points. Participants also encouraged stronger engagement with the SCF, the Technology Executive Committee, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme and Presidency Initiatives including the Global Implementation Accelerator.

88. **Strengthen integration of science and Indigenous knowledge**. Participants highlighted the importance of strengthening the integration of ocean science within the

research and systematic observation agenda and the research dialogue. Participants stressed the importance of maintaining a dedicated focus on oceans and ensuring that ocean governance reflects Indigenous knowledge, lived experience and diverse knowledge systems. **Robert Karoro** (member of the Facilitative Working Group LCIPP Platform) noted the alignment of the 2026 LCIPP annual theme with the dialogue and invited submissions to the activities and thematic areas of the 2028–2031 LCIPP workplan to strengthen the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in ocean stewardship and climate solutions.

89. **Dissemination, accessibility and participation**. Participants called for improved dissemination and uptake of dialogue outcomes, including through placing outcomes on the agendas of relevant work programmes and constituted bodies and strengthening the role of co-facilitators and Parties in communicating, disseminating and amplifying outcomes. Participants emphasized that dialogue outcomes should feed into key UNFCCC processes, including the SCF 2026 Forum, the GCAA, Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T and its One Ocean Partnership component, the Work Programme on Climate Finance and GST2. They also highlighted the value of intersessional exchanges, increased participation and accessibility, including virtual participation in breakout groups, and suggested an information-sharing session or panel on relevant UNFCCC processes as a possible dialogue session. Practical outputs proposed included annual guidance inventories, implementation compendiums, practical examples, regional exchanges and COP-facing messages.

90. **GCAA and partnerships**. Jessie Turner (co-coordinator, Activation Group 7 of Climate Action Agenda), highlighted the role of more than 50 civil society initiatives in advancing ocean–climate action ahead of COP 31 through the Ocean Breakthroughs, including by accelerating mitigation, mobilizing finance, strengthening ocean governance and showcasing national and regional ocean–climate solutions. Participants also highlighted the GCAA and the Blue Package, as key vehicles for moving from ambition to implementation and strengthening partnerships.

91. Strengthen dialogue continuity through a multi-year road map

(a) **Establish a structured and time-bound road map aligned with the Paris Agreement**. Participants highlighted the importance of carrying the dialogue's findings into a multi-year road map aligned with the ambition and implementation cycle of the Paris Agreement, in line with the vision of the dialogue co-facilitators. They emphasized that the road map should identify priorities, lead organizations and responsibilities, establish a community of practice and develop a multi-year action plan, while identifying entry points for ocean action across the UNFCCC, clarifying pathways for carrying dialogue outcomes forward, embedding institutional learning and ensuring recommendations are reflected in relevant UNFCCC processes and Presidency initiatives. Some participants proposed that such a road map could be established through a COP decision;

(b) **Align the dialogue road map with key UNFCCC processes and milestones, ensuring continuity, tracking and follow-up**. Proposals included horizon-scanning to align future dialogue topics with upcoming milestones; reviewing evidence needs and opportunities to integrate ocean considerations into processes such as GST2; and conducting periodic stocktakes to track progress on ocean-based action, including through biennial transparency reports, and assess the uptake of dialogue outcomes in UNFCCC and COP processes. Participants emphasized that future dialogues should build on previous discussions while remaining aligned with the Paris Agreement ambition cycle and key milestones, including the 2026 SCF Forum, COP 31, the next NDC cycle and the GST. They also highlighted the importance of structuring the road map around country action, MOI and coherence, coordination and synergies, including alignment between NDCs and NBSAPs and links with the BBNJ Agreement, while mapping existing tools and guidance to avoid duplication and engaging governments, communities, finance actors, scientists and other relevant stakeholders.

92. **Strengthen science, knowledge exchange and international cooperation**. Participants emphasized the dialogue's role in sharing science, knowledge, technology, marine scientific research, best practices and lessons learned and identified it as a potential platform for synthesizing contemporary science to support decision-making. Participants highlighted that the dialogue could strengthen international and regional cooperation,

knowledge exchange and policy coherence by connecting existing ocean–climate initiatives, avoiding duplication, strengthening regional cooperation platforms, facilitating exchanges on needs and lessons learned, and scaling up peer learning through country-to-country and regional exchanges. Participants also emphasized maintaining a dedicated focus on oceans while considering future ocean and climate impacts.

93. **Maintain a facilitative, balanced, Party-driven and technology-neutral dialogue**. Some Parties recalled that the dialogue was established as a facilitative, balanced, Party-driven and technology-neutral platform for the exchange of experiences and implementation challenges, not as a vehicle for promoting specific energy pathways or prescribing particular development models. Accordingly, it was suggested that dialogue outcomes facilitate implementation of identified ocean-based priorities while fully respecting the nationally determined nature of climate action and promoting voluntary cooperation.

V. Conclusion and next steps

94. Building on the strong foundation established over the past years, and consistent with our vision for the 2026 dialogue, the discussions, recommendations and key messages emerging from the 2026 dialogue demonstrate the continuing value of the dialogue as a facilitative platform for supporting implementation of the Paris Agreement.

95. We encourage Parties and observers to actively disseminate and promote the key messages of the 2026 dialogue, as well as those developed in previous years, and to support their uptake across the identified UNFCCC processes, including in the lead-up to and during Pre-COP and COP 31. Such efforts can contribute to advancing consideration of the ocean–climate nexus across the UNFCCC agenda and help support the achievement of a strong blue outcome at COP 31. Furthermore, we encourage Parties, observers and relevant stakeholders to continue sharing, exchanging and scaling the dialogue's outcomes.

96. We encourage the continuation of these discussions in the next phase of the dialogue and invite the incoming co-facilitators for the 2027–2028 biennium to build on the progress achieved to date. The recommendations, reflections and proposals shared by Parties and observers can inform future discussions on how the dialogue can further support implementation, enhance the integration of ocean-related outcomes across the UNFCCC process, and contribute to the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. We also encourage the incoming co-facilitators to consider the ideas and recommendations presented in this report regarding the future evolution of the dialogue and possible elements of a road map. We look forward to continuing to support ocean-based climate action and working closely with the incoming co-facilitators to ensure that the dialogue remains an effective platform for translating ocean–climate ambition into action.

97. During COP 31, we intend to present the key messages of the 2026 dialogue during the opening plenary. We also plan to convene a dedicated special event at COP 31 to discuss the dialogue's key messages and identify opportunities for their uptake in relevant COP 31 processes and outcomes. Further information on this special event, including timing and participation arrangements, will be made available in due course through the UNFCCC ocean web page.

98. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with Parties, observers and stakeholders for the 2026 dialogue. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the constructive engagement, expertise and commitment that have contributed to the success of the dialogue. We have been honoured to undertake this role alongside Ambassador Carlos Cozendey and are grateful for his leadership and partnership. As we look ahead to COP 31, we remain committed to working closely with the COP 31 Presidency, Parties and observers to advance ocean-based climate action and help deliver a meaningful blue outcome that reflects the importance of the ocean in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.