

Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 2026

Plenary Statement by The Pew Charitable Trusts | 10-11 June 2026 | Bonn, Germany

Thank you, Co-Facilitators.

As this is the first time that Pew is taking the floor at this year's Dialogue, we would like to thank the Co-Facilitators for their efforts to organize this year's Dialogue, including through the opportunity for early engagement at the exchange of views in March, as well as the Information Note circulated ahead of this week's convening.

We would also like to express our support, as shared by many others here today, for the focus given by the Co-Facilitators on moving ocean-climate nexus commitments from ambition to delivery, as accelerating the implementation of known solutions is the surest pathway to reach the Paris Agreement's goals.

Within this approach, Pew would like to highlight our views on the three topics selected for this year's Dialogue:

Firstly, on Ocean-based priorities in the Nationally Determined Contributions, and specifically on coastal resilience and blue carbon ecosystems, notable progress has been made by Parties on the inclusion of mangroves and seagrasses within NDCs through commitments to restore, conserve, manage and sustainably finance those ecosystems. Through active in-country partnerships, Pew has been fortunate to provide scientific and technical policy support to nine countries within the Latin America & Caribbean and Western Indian Ocean regions, including Costa Rica, Belize, Seychelles, Kenya, Panama and Jamaica, to support science-based and measurable NDC commitments to coastal wetland ecosystems.

In particular, country commitments to halt and reverse mangrove loss in their NDCs, include:

- **Costa Rica's** 2020 NDC commitment to halt or reverse the net loss of coastal wetlands by 2030 by addressing the main causes of deforestation and degradation that threaten their health and vitality;
- **Belize's** 2021 NDC commitment to partner with local communities, private landowners and other key stakeholders to halt and reverse mangrove loss by 2025; and
- **Jamaica's** 2025 NDC commitment to develop and implement a no-net-loss policy for forests and coastal wetlands by 2035.

In the spirit of lending concrete, practical learnings on translating ocean-climate ambition into action, we believe that these early-mover experiences can serve as a reference point for the growing caucus of Parties, financial institutions and wider stakeholders considering approaches to conserve their blue carbon ecosystems. We also consider these and other related actions in more detail in Pew's written submission to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030.

Next, on Means of Implementation, we note the timeliness of this discussion given this year's focus by the Standing Committee on Finance on financing climate action in the ocean. We highlight the following three approaches that stand out as promising pathways for Parties' consideration:

- (i) Debt-for-nature conversions, which can unlock predictable financing for climate projects while reducing countries' debt burdens;
- (ii) Project Finance for Permanence initiatives, a blended finance approach that enables large scale, durable conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems amongst others; and
- (iii) Sustainability linked bonds and blue bonds, which enable countries and companies to raise new capital while creating powerful financial incentives to deliver on climate and conservation goals.

These three approaches are outlined in more detail in Pew's written submission to the Standing Committee on Finance on this topic, alongside a discussion of lessons learned from experiences in financing mangrove, seagrass and salt marsh conservation and restoration.

Finally, on Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation, the international community is preparing for the first BBNJ COP. As this process matures, it will be helpful for the UNFCCC to support Parties in maintaining line of sight between their NDCs and the aims of the Paris Agreement, alongside the evolving architecture for biodiversity conservation on the High Seas under BBNJ and opportunities for climate-informed implementation under that forum.

Additionally, in the context of linkages with international fisheries governance, we note the inclusion of climate change in the draft provisional agenda of the FAO Committee on Fisheries' Thirty-seventh Session this September, where Members will consider *Adaptation and mitigation of fisheries and aquaculture to climate change, including extreme events*. As FAO Member countries, as well as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, seek to develop and implement climate-adaptive fisheries management measures, enhanced international coordination across the UNFCCC and these bodies could help inform progress across countries' exclusive economic zones and in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Further elaboration on these issues is available in our written submission to the exchange of views on the Dialogue.

Thank you, Co-Facilitators.