

Co-facilitators, distinguished panelists, esteemed delegates. Good afternoon.

I am Iván Vejar Pardo, from Chile and I am representing the Independent Association of Latin America and the Caribbean, AILAC. Our region views the topic of ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies not as a policy option, but as the only path forward for an urgent, science-based, and integrated global response to the triple planetary crisis. As emphasized in AILAC's work on the Mitigation Work Programme, our discussions must focus on actions that drive deep, rapid, and sustained emission reductions, grounded unequivocally in the science that guides the 1.5°C goal.

AILAC's position is firm: achieving our climate goals requires recognizing and fully leveraging the fundamental role of nature. The crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are interlinked and must be addressed in a comprehensive and synergetic manner.

First, we must acknowledge the critical importance of natural carbon sinks. The Mitigation Work Programme must encompass not only greenhouse gas emissions, but also sinks of greenhouse gases. This justifies the urgent prioritization of ecosystem protection, restoration, and conservation, specifically for terrestrial and marine ecosystems that function as vital carbon reservoirs. Preserving these high-integrity, healthy ecosystems is

essential for sequestering carbon and enhancing resilience to climate impacts.

Second, effective action demands policy coherence. We strongly encourage the alignment of national policies, specifically the articulation of our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with our National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). This integrated national planning is crucial for identifying and leveraging the overlaps between climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation, particularly aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Target 8

Finally, incorporating adaptation synergies with mitigation promotes a more inclusive, efficient, and impactful approach to tackling these intertwined challenges.

The second, non-negotiable pillar is robust international cooperation on the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, etc.) to deliver on ocean-based climate ambition.

The ocean is central to our climate system, and its health is fundamental to global stability. The greatest opportunity for international cooperation today lies in the BBNJ Agreement: the new legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)

This agreement is directly relevant to our topic for three reasons:

**Ecosystem Protection:** BBNJ provides the mechanism to establish Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs) like Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the high seas, which is essential for protecting the large-scale marine ecosystems that serve as indispensable global carbon sinks

The BBNJ Agreement is the instrument that operationalizes the "biodiversity" targets of the KMGBF in the high seas, thereby strengthening the synergy that AILAC calls for between the UNFCCC and the global biodiversity framework. AILAC and its member states have a long-standing record of championing this work on Convention linkages, including previous efforts to host high-level discussions on coherent implementation. Today, that commitment is demonstrated by Chile's active candidacy to host the BBNJ Secretariat in Valparaíso. This is not merely a logistical effort; it is a clear statement of political intent to foster the international cooperation needed to bring this critical treaty into force.

Furthermore, we encourage the development and adoption of voluntary guidelines for integrating ocean-based actions into our next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Such guidelines would provide a valuable framework for Parties to systematically identify and incorporate concrete, science-based ocean and coastal solutions, thereby strengthening the alignment between climate ambitions and the health of our marine ecosystems.

To conclude, AILAC calls on all Parties to commit to three concurrent actions to realize the synergies discussed today: Maximum Ambition: Anchor all climate action in the 1.5°C target, recognizing and investing in nature, particularly our marine ecosystems, as indispensable allies in mitigation.

Integrated Governance: Systematically align NDCs and NBSAPs to ensure coherence and maximize the benefits of integrated national planning.

Robust Cooperation: Rapidly ratify and implement the BBNJ Agreement as the decisive step to secure the international cooperation needed for ocean-based climate ambition.

We must move beyond conceptual discussions and accelerate implementation on the ground and in the water. We look forward to a fruitful dialogue. Thank you.