

**CAN Ecosystems Working Group Statement
at the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 2025
on ways forward and further strengthening ocean-based action**

We would like to thank the co-facilitators, Parties, and observers for two stimulating and informative sessions of the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue, speaking on behalf of the Ecosystems WG of the Climate Action Network.

As we approach the closing of this year's dialogue, we would like to highlight the following:

- Just a year ago, the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea issued a ruling reaffirming that States have the legal obligation to protect the marine environment, including through **preventing Greenhouse Gas Emissions entering the ocean by enhancing action on mitigation**.
- Therefore, in the dialogue on the **Ocean-based measures in the Nationally Determined Contributions**, it is important to recognize that NDCs **must not introduce/rely on marine carbon dioxide removals under the guise of ocean-based mitigation**. We must differentiate clearly between legitimate, proven ocean-based climate action, such as rejecting offshore oil and gas, and prioritizing blue carbon ecosystem restoration, rather than unproven geoengineering schemes that risk doing more harm than good. **Upholding the precautionary principle** is a key obligation to all Parties under various conventions and Customary International Law.
- On the **Global Goal on Adaptation**, it is important to integrate the ocean dimension into the GGA indicators and Parties should ensure coherence with relevant indicator frameworks under other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, while accounting for the critical role of **ecological integrity and connectivity** in ocean.
- On **Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies**, it is essential to expand discussions about blue carbon and marine conservation under the UNFCCC beyond coastal areas, including High Seas and biodiversity in the water column (e.g., mesopelagic fish, marine mammals) and look for synergies with the **High Seas Treaty, Regional Seas Conventions** and other **Multilateral Environmental Agreements**.
- Additionally, there is a need to **address ocean acidification** under the UNFCCC and to identify knowledge, capacity and process gaps – nationally, regionally and internationally.
- On all the abovementioned topics, it is also essential to ensure **that all ocean-climate action needs to be based on protecting ecosystem integrity and safeguarding and promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities** that depend on marine ecosystems, including by **upholding the precautionary principle**, Free Prior and Informed Consent, the rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice.
- Action at scale and increased resources, including finance, are needed, while recognising that **carbon markets do not constitute climate finance**.
- To ensure the development of an **actionable roadmap**, it should include concrete goals and outcomes, plan for the integration of Dialogue outputs in other relevant UNFCCC processes and be **aligned with UNFCCC Paris Agreement's ambition cycles**

We emphasize: climate ambition must not come at the cost of ocean integrity - the most credible mitigation pathway remains immediate emissions reduction, not marine manipulation. We ask the Dialogue to call parties to put the Ocean at the heart of COP30 and hope for an Ocean ambitious language at the next COP.