

Canada's Statement for the 2025 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue

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Canada is pleased to contribute to the 2025 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue and commends the co-facilitators for their leadership in advancing international cooperation on the ocean-climate nexus. We recognize the ocean as a critical pillar in addressing climate change and emphasize that ocean science and ocean finance are essential to making progress across the Dialogue's three main topics. We offer the following reflections to help inform the Dialogue's summary report.

1. Ocean-Based Measures in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

When discussing the inclusion of ocean-based measures in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), it is important to recognize that the Paris Agreement does not obligate countries to include detailed implementation plans within their NDCs. Consequently, while some countries choose to outline how they will achieve their economy-wide emissions reduction targets in their NDCs, others opt to develop separate strategies for this purpose. It is therefore equally important to emphasize the role of accompanying implementation plans, where ocean-based measures can also be articulated and effectively integrated. The absence of ocean-based measures in an NDC does not necessarily indicate their exclusion from a country's broader emissions reduction strategy.

Canada's NDC is supported by an Emissions Reduction Plan. Our 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan includes several ocean-related measures aimed at combatting climate change. For example, the plan includes investments in nature-based climate solutions, such as the conservation of wetlands and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems that may enhance carbon sequestration. It refers to the development of a national action plan to support emissions reductions in the marine sector. It also outlines collaboration with international partners to address black carbon emissions in the Arctic from international shipping.

We encourage Parties to:

- Integrate ocean-based mitigation into their NDC or implementation strategies that support their NDC, including clear and quantifiable indicators to track progress;
- Reframe the discourse on integrating ocean-based actions into NDCs to also emphasize the critical role of implementation plans in meeting emissions reduction targets through mitigation; and
- Leverage Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to share progress, best practices and enhance accountability for ocean-based measures.

2. Advancing Ocean Dimensions under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

Canada is engaged in the development of adaptation indicators under the UAE–Belém work programme through a robust, expert-driven process. We underscore the importance of ensuring the ocean is meaningfully represented in the final list of adaptation indicators, particularly to support assessment of progress on the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience target on ecosystems and biodiversity.

A major barrier to effective reporting on ocean-related adaptation is the limited availability of scaled and integrated data across sectors and jurisdictions, which makes it difficult to produce consistent and comparable information. This challenge is further compounded in countries with vast geographic scales and extensive marine and coastal areas, and by the fact that over seventy per cent of the ocean lies beyond national jurisdiction, making comprehensive and coordinated ocean monitoring particularly complex. Stronger coordination and data sharing will be essential to support countries' ability to report on future indicators in a credible and consistent manner. Canada recognizes the need to strengthen ocean-focused research and observation systems, promote standardized and interoperable data frameworks, and enhance collaborative data sharing. These efforts are critical to ensuring that ocean dimensions of the adaptation response are meaningfully integrated into global efforts to achieve the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

As the process of selecting indicators to assess progress under the GGA is still underway, it is important to begin assessing whether the foundational data systems needed to support future reporting are in place. Developing the capacity to report on new indicators takes time and new funding, and data gaps will pose a significant challenge. Countries should consider proactively developing plans for how they will collect, manage, and share the necessary data to report effectively on these indicators.

We encourage Parties to:

- Consider develop national strategies for ocean data readiness, including plans to identify, collect, and manage the data needed to support future reporting on ocean-related adaptation indicators;
- Support initiatives in ocean observation systems and data-sharing platforms, including through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and national initiatives; and
- Join the pledge to advance Ocean Accounts for ocean sustainable development by 2030.

3. Strengthening Ocean-Climate-Biodiversity Synergies

Canada recognizes that climate change and biodiversity loss are deeply interconnected. Climate change is a major driver of biodiversity loss, while the degradation of ecosystems reduces nature's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts. These twin crises must be addressed together through integrated approaches.

Nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based approaches (EbA) are powerful tools that harness the capacity of nature to reduce climate risks while simultaneously supporting biodiversity. It is essential to minimize the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and to enhance ecosystem resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, including through NbS and EbA. At the same time, it is important to avoid unintended negative impacts of climate action on biodiversity and to maximize co-benefits wherever possible.

There is a clear opportunity to maximize synergies between climate and nature programming, better identify and manage trade-offs, and integrate these considerations into decision-making processes. For example, better understanding which ecosystems have high carbon sequestration potential, particularly those containing irrecoverable carbon, can help prioritize areas for future conservation and restoration that deliver both climate and biodiversity benefits. In particular, the carbon sequestration potential of marine and coastal ecosystems (blue carbon) warrants further research and attention. Current knowledge of ecosystem responses to climate stressors remains limited. Advancing natural asset inventories, including blue carbon accounting, and implementing evidence-based monitoring systems, will be essential to track adaptation and resilience outcomes across ecosystems.

We encourage Parties to:

- Align climate and biodiversity commitments to ensure coherent policies that promote nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches with mutual benefits;
- Take steps to develop robust monitoring systems and natural asset inventories to track ecosystem responses and support adaptive management and evidence-based (e.g., advancing the development of Ocean Accounts) decision-making; and
- Prioritize the protection and restoration of high-value ecosystems, supported by research to enhance understanding of carbon sequestration potential of blue carbon ecosystems, in order to inform future conservation and restoration efforts and maximize climate and biodiversity outcomes.

Looking Ahead

Canada supports the development of a 3-to-5-year roadmap for the Dialogue and suggest a recurring focus on ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and coherence with other global frameworks and processes. We are committed to continued collaboration and knowledge exchange to ensure the ocean becomes central to global, mutually supportive climate and biodiversity ambition.