

## EIG - Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 2026

Thank you Mr. Co-facilitator,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Environmental Integrity Group.

Since COP 25, the Dialogue has successfully brought together experts from diverse backgrounds, civil society and Party delegates to exchange on key ocean issues. This success derives directly from its efficient mandate and we must stick to it.

As reflected in this year's priority areas, provision of means of implementation is not yet sufficient to cover all necessary actions to ensure a healthy ocean and its recovery. However, objectives are clearly set, a growing number of NDCs include ocean-related measures, and specific Adaptation Indicators shall help Parties efficiently direct support to ocean-based action. We also understand the ocean can be a consensual high impact area for enhanced mitigation action, particularly within the context of the Belem Mission to 1.5.

We especially look forward to the Forum of the SCF on financing climate action for water systems and the ocean and welcome initiatives to mobilize and scale up private finance towards the blue economy, such as the Blue Economy and Finance Forum.

On international cooperation, we believe the ocean is key to achieving the Paris Agreement objectives and in addressing other environmental challenges. In that sense, the long awaited entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement and its first COP to be held in January 2027 are a positive sign of effective and ambitious international cooperation on ocean preservation. It is also an essential ecosystem for the implementation of the 30x30 biodiversity goal.

Furthermore, the 4<sup>th</sup> UN Ocean Conference, which will be co-hosted by Chile and the Republic of Korea in 2028, represents another significant milestone in our global commitment to ocean action.

This cooperation must however rely on the best available science, which is not negotiable. We are concern about recent developments that may undermine scientific cooperation, dissemination and integrity. In the meantime, we see hope in the exponential development of science on ecosystems response to warming, especially the ocean. We must make sure that it reaches every frontline community through a greater access to relevant technologies.

Eventually, while we commend that the Dialogue continues to inform most discussions relating to the ocean across the process. At the same time, the summary report remains underused and could play a greater role in informing upcoming discussions, especially in the lead-up to GST-2. In this regard, we stress the need, as highlighted by Australia, to identify what opportunities for the ocean derived from GST-1.

We finally ensure both Türkiye and Australia of the EIG's support into maintaining a strong blue thread at COP 31.