

Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue, 2026

Statement on behalf of Iceland

Thank you, Co-facilitators.

First let me express Iceland's appreciation for this opportunity to engage on this important issue, and thank all speakers over the past two days for highlighting many key points, including on the role of ocean observations and the importance of integrating the ocean into UNFCCC discussions.

I will focus my intervention on blue food.

Iceland is the Chair of the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition, a multistakeholder group that brings together member countries, researchers, and advocates to elevate blue foods in climate, ocean, and food system dialogues.

The Coalition successfully championed the inclusion of blue foods in the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at COP28, and we have engaged actively in forums on the synergies between the climate, the ocean and food security.

Blue foods are essential to food and nutrition security, livelihoods, biodiversity, and climate resilience. For many coastal, island, riverine and inland communities, blue foods are not a marginal issue. They are central to survival, culture, economies, and adaptation.

Despite their value, blue foods remain underrepresented in major global food and climate dialogues. This must change, as food systems are central to climate solutions, and blue foods are a vital part of that system.

As we have heard over the past two days, ocean-based action is already gaining ground in NDCs. Ninety-one of 119 new NDCs include at least one ocean-based component, and fisheries and aquaculture are already reflected in adaptation, mitigation and cross-cutting measures. This is encouraging. But the next step is to move from recognition to implementation.

Iceland stands ready to work with partners to ensure aquatic blue foods are fully integrated into global efforts for a food secure, climate resilient, and equitable future.

I finally, will join our colleagues from the Comoros, that have called for the inclusion of the gender perspective into ocean action.

I thank you.