

## **Joint COP26 Presidency Event**

### **Informal consultation on oceans and climate**

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

#### **Summary**

#### **Opening remarks from the COP25 Presidency and presentation of the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue Summary Report**

1. Marco Martinez from Chile, acting as Moderator, opened the discussion and welcomed all participants to the event.
2. Ambassador Waldemar Coutts from Chile provided opening remarks in which he emphasised the importance of the meeting to advance the ocean and climate agenda and ensure the momentum from COP25 carries through. He also thanked the SBSTA Chair, Ambassador Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, for convening a successful Ocean Dialogue in December 2020 and Joanna Post, UNFCCC Secretariat, for delivering a comprehensive Summary Report. Ambassador Coutts went on to advocate that the Ocean Dialogue and report be recognised at COP26 as an important milestone and catalyst for future ocean-climate ambition. Finally, he encouraged Parties to look beyond the UNFCCC and consider how ocean-based mitigation adaptation solutions can contribute to national climate goals, as well as using the full spectrum of international fora to deliver climate goals.

Ambassador Tosi Mpanu Mpanu delivered a presentation on the Summary Report, focussing on the mandate for the ocean and climate change dialogue, an overview of the events at the dialogue, and a summary of the ways forward identified and provided in the informal summary note of the meeting. To close, the Ambassador asked participants to focus on the three questions for discussion and to consider what specific actions on ocean climate participants wanted consensus to move forward on.

#### **Discussion on next steps**

3. During the discussion, a number of participants welcomed the Summary Report and its articulation of the key priorities for strengthening the ocean-climate nexus – across both adaptation and mitigation actions – under the UNFCCC, across the UN and at national and international level.
4. On next steps, several parties called for a strong political signal from COP26 on the ocean, emphasising the impacts of climate change for ocean, the need to raise climate ambition as a result, the importance of ocean action to address climate change, and the need to better integrate ocean-climate issues within UNFCCC. Some parties specifically advocated for decision text on the ocean in 1/CP.26. One intervention also mentioned a joint political statement under the Global Climate Action Agenda as a potential outcome. One intervention emphasised that any next steps taken under the UNFCCC should focus on government-led actions.
5. Some Parties advocated that COP26 should call for further integration and consideration of the ocean-climate nexus within existing UNFCCC processes and constituted bodies, as well as across the UN system, with some saying that Parties could usefully call for this in the COP26 decision text.

6. A reoccurring ocean-climate dialogue was supported by several participants. Different options for the roles and responsibilities of this dialogue were put forward in discussions. These included proposals for a dialogue with broad, practitioner-led attendance that could take stock of ocean-climate actions taken and highlight what further action was needed. There were also proposals that a future dialogue should have a role in delivering ocean-climate action in developing countries, particularly in the realms of adaptation and mitigation, mobilizing finance and the capacity building role of ocean science and technology transfer for vulnerable coastal communities.
7. Some interventions also called for a balanced treatment for ocean and land in any decision text agreed at COP26, including through better integration of land and ocean in UNFCCC.
8. Some Parties made particular calls for national action. These calls ranged from advocating for a COP26 decision text that included a call for Parties to include ocean mitigation and adaptation solutions in their national climate plans, prioritising ocean NbS including the preservation of mangroves and seagrass, and the promotion of blue carbon and MPAs. Other Parties made calls for regional efforts and leadership through commitments and projects, including the idea of regional NDCs.
9. Non-Party speakers made calls for the ocean to be included in the Paris Agreement's Global Stocktake and for a future dialogue on the role of the cryosphere.

#### **Closing remarks from the incoming COP26 Presidency**

10. Archie Young, COP26 UK Lead Negotiator, delivered closing remarks for the event. He gave reflections on the Summary Report, emphasising the depth of opportunity for ocean climate action highlighted in the report, the call for inclusivity and the importance of having all voices at the table, including those most impacted by climate change, identifying synergies and streamlining processes, mobilising climate finance and the use of dialogues. He acknowledged the weight of expectation for an ocean outcome at COP 26 and thanked the UNFCCC Secretariat for their support in delivering the informal consultation.