Ocean climate dialogue special event

11 November 2026, 13:15h - 14:45h

Venue: Side Event Room 8 – BERGAMA

DOALOS statement

Thank you, Co-facilitators.

On behalf of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (DOALOS), I would like to offer a few reflections on the questions you posed today.

First, a possible COP31 outcome to elevate the ocean climate nexus could recognize other relevant multilateral efforts that can support ocean and climate goals, thereby enhancing coordination and integration of efforts across fora. For example, Parties could recognize the contribution of the third World Ocean Assessment, prepared under the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process) established by the UN General Assembly. This assessment is a key source of best available science that can support policymakers in integrating ocean-based climate action into the implementation of the current cycle of NDCs and NAPs.

COP31 could also recognize the relevance of the recently entered-into-force BBNJ Agreement. The Agreement contains important provisions that can contribute to building ecosystem resilience and strengthening ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies for half of our planet. Of particular relevance in this context, the forthcoming first COP of the BBNJ Agreement (which will be convened in New York, 11-22 January 2027) is expected to advance discussions on arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies (or IFBs) and on arrangements related to the operationalization of provisions on financial resources and mechanisms.

Second, in order to enhance means of implementation and accelerate action, collaboration across the United Nations system must be strengthened to ensure coherent and efficient support to States. In this regard, UN-Oceans, the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean-related matters, could be recognized as an important platform for coordination and knowledge-sharing for the delivery of integrated support to countries implementing ocean-related elements of their NDCs and NAPs.

Thank you.