

## **Ocean Dialogue**

### **Plenary Interventions**

Thank you Co-Facilitators,

The Arab Group appreciates the efforts of the Co-Facilitators in organizing this Dialogue and welcomes the opportunity to exchange experiences, lessons learned, implementation challenges, and developing countries support needs related to ocean-based climate action.

We continue to view the Ocean Dialogue as a valuable facilitative platform that can support implementation through voluntary knowledge-sharing, cooperation, and the exchange of good practices.

Before turning to the substance of the Dialogue, we would like to emphasize the importance of ensuring that any report or outcome emerging from this process remains balanced, factual, and technology-neutral. The Ocean Dialogue was established as a facilitative platform for the exchange of experiences and implementation challenges, not as a vehicle for promoting specific energy pathways or prescribing particular development models.

Any report that explicitly or implicitly targets specific energy sources, advocates sectoral restrictions, or fails to adequately reflect different national circumstances, development priorities, and energy security considerations would risk undermining consensus among Parties. In such circumstances, we may not be in a position to support the acknowledgement of such a report in a COP decision. We therefore encourage that all outputs remain focused on implementation, emissions reduction through all available technologies and pathways, and the diversity of approaches available to Parties in pursuing their climate objectives.

We remain committed to engaging constructively in the Dialogue and to supporting outcomes that facilitate implementation, strengthen means of implementation, and promote voluntary cooperation while fully respecting the nationally determined nature of climate action.

From our perspective, the discussion should focus on implementation realities rather than the expansion of commitments or the creation of new expectations for Parties.

Ocean-based climate action must be implemented in a nationally determined manner, in accordance with each Party's NDCs, national circumstances, development priorities, capabilities, geography, and economic structure.

Many developing countries have already integrated ocean-related elements into their national climate planning processes, including NDCs, National Adaptation Plans, and broader sustainable development strategies.

The principal challenge is therefore not the identification of priorities, but rather the ability to translate those priorities into concrete implementation outcomes.

The barriers faced by developing countries are multifaceted. Foremost, significant capacity building, technology transfer and development, and financing gaps continue to hinder implementation. Coastal resilience programmes, marine ecosystem restoration initiatives, sustainable fisheries management, ocean observation systems, and adaptation measures require substantial and sustained investments and capacity building that often exceed available domestic resources. The most important enabling condition remains the provision of adequate, predictable, accessible, and timely means of implementation for developing countries.

For arid and semi-arid countries, a key enabling condition is the recognition that oceans are essential to national water security and NDC implementation, particularly where desalination and coastal infrastructure are critical to national resilience. At the same time, implementation pathways must remain nationally determined. Ocean-based climate action should support sustainable development, food security, energy security, economic diversification, and resilience objectives in accordance with national circumstances and priorities.

We would caution against using this Dialogue to advance prescriptive interpretations or to create sector-specific expectations outside agreed mandates. Climate action should remain orderly, equitable, nationally determined, and reflective of different national circumstances, including energy security, development needs, and economic diversification priorities. The focus should be on reducing emissions through all available technologies and pathways, rather than singling out specific energy sources.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach, and countries must retain flexibility in determining how ocean-related actions are reflected and implemented within their national frameworks.

Ocean-based climate action in NDCs must remain nationally determined, country-driven, and aligned with national circumstances, priorities, and capabilities, without creating new obligations, reporting burdens, or one-size-fits-all requirements.