

OCEAN AND CLIMATE CHANGE DIALOGUE 2025

17-18 JUNE 2025 | BONN, GERMANY

PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION

The Philippines welcomes the convening of the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue and affirms the urgent need to center ocean-based action in climate discussions. As an archipelagic nation with one of the world's longest coastlines and a population highly at risk to climate events, the ocean is integral to our national identity, development aspirations, and resilience to climate change.

We highlight the significant contribution of blue carbon ecosystems to both climate mitigation and adaptation. The Philippines hosts an estimated 450,000 hectares of mangroves and over 27,000 hectares of seagrass beds, which collectively sequester millions of tons of carbon dioxide. These ecosystems are also critical for buffering coastal hazards such as storm surges and sea level rise.

We are exploring the inclusion of other blue carbon ecosystems other than mangrove in future NDC updating. Under the National Blue Carbon Action Partnership, the work on a comprehensive roadmap on blue carbon for adaptation and climate resilience is almost completed.

The Philippines is enhancing its national accounting and monitoring systems to reflect the climate, biodiversity, and risk reduction benefits of marine ecosystems. As such, we support the establishment of a dedicated blue finance window to scale up conservation, restoration, and community-based efforts.

We recognize that marine litter and climate change are inextricably linked. Marine litter is a transboundary and multidimensional issue with serious implications to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities. In response, we are implementing a National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter with an overarching goal of "Zero waste to Philippine waters by 2040".

We support the inclusion of ocean-focused indicators in the Global Goal on Adaptation and call for improved integration across National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. This integration must be informed not only by scientific evidence but also by the knowledge, values, and practices of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

With thousands of marine species recorded in our waters, and more than 80 percent of our population dependent on marine and coastal resources for livelihood and food security, ocean biodiversity is foundational to the country's sustainable development. The

Philippines underscores the importance of integrating biodiversity and high seas governance into the climate agenda. Ratification of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction is an important coherence of biodiversity actions across climate and ocean-related frameworks to maximize synergies and reduce implementation burdens.

We reiterate the advisory opinion rendered by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in 2024 on state obligations to protect and preserve the marine environment in relation to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.

Finally, the Philippines supports the development of a strategic roadmap leading up to COP 30 in Belém that advances coherent, equitable, and well-financed ocean-climate action. We reaffirm our commitment to sustained engagement in ocean-based action ensuring that the ocean—our shared climate ally—is fully and fairly represented in global climate responses.

Thank you.