

CONCEPT NOTE
Platform of Science-based Ocean Solutions
December 3, 1.15 PM
IFEMA, Madrid

I. Background

The ocean has a fundamental role as global climate regulator, through the absorption of heat and carbon dioxide¹. However, this role as a carbon sink has significant adverse consequences such as acidification, deoxygenation and sea level rise. This creates a sense of urgency in addressing these adverse effects, especially considering Art. 4.1d of the Convention, which mandates to “enhance and conserve” all carbon sinks, including ocean, and particular coastal and marine ecosystems.

In September 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) launched the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC). This Report revealed that impacts are already significant and will be increasingly dangerous if the world does not urgently take mitigation and adaptation actions.

Chile has a very strong commitment and concern that dangerous impacts of climate change on the ocean need to be significantly reduced and limited. In the past years, and through the "Because the Ocean" Declarations, Chile and many other countries have promoted the inclusion of ocean relevant solutions as components of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), demonstrating greater ambition in their response to climate change.

While the ocean is directly affected by the impacts of climate change, the ocean also holds solutions, which can help the world mitigate and adapt to climate change. Such solutions include coastal and marine Nature-based Solutions (NbS) (e.g. restoration and protection of mangroves and coral reefs). However, to address a potential greater contribution of the ocean to climate change it is necessary that science and sea management policy identify and support the rapid development of ambitious actions at the local level, overcoming existing challenges such as:

- Misunderstanding or lack of understanding what constitutes a NbS in the coastal and marine environment;
- Lack of understanding how to measure the contribution of coastal and marine NbS to quantifiable mitigation, and to some degree, adaptation actions;
- Lack of clarity and evidence on the vulnerability of coastal and marine ecosystems, due to the impacts of climate change; and
- Lack of clarity and limited access to what constitutes “good or climate proofed management actions”.

Chile seizes the COP25 as a stage to raise the importance of the link between ocean and climate change, promoting the inclusion of an ocean component in climate action. To this end, the Blue COP will mark a milestone where existing initiatives in oceanic matters can make available their science-based as well as practical evidence.

¹ The ocean is currently responsible for capturing about a third of the anthropogenic CO₂ emitted into the atmosphere and for absorbing about 90% of the heat resulting from these emissions.

Acknowledging the necessity to address ocean and climate issues synergistically, Chile will announce the creation of a Platform of Solutions for the Ocean in a changing climate as priority of the COP25 Presidency, aiming at nature-based solutions and best available science and practice.

II. Overall Objective of the Platform

- To encourage the incorporation of the ocean in climate strategies (NDCs, NAPs, Adaptation Communications, and National Policy Frameworks).
- To facilitate access to key resources and solutions for the ocean, primarily NbS.
- To create a community of practices, to share lessons learned and get new ideas and inspiration
- To support the transfer and uptake of solutions in other contexts
- To encourage and guide concrete implementation of policies, programs and projects to the growing and overwhelming evidence about climate change and its effects on the ocean.
- To highlight the importance of the IPCC SROCC and its main findings, as the best available science for the planning and implementation of national policies.
- And thus
- To enhance the sharing of knowledge created by various actors in the ocean and climate community to advance ocean-climate action.
- To involve and engage a large number of actors in ocean-climate action: academia, the public sector, the private sector and the civil society.

III. COP25 Presidency High Level Event Agenda

13.15 – 13.30 Open Remarks

- Carolina Schmidt, COP25 President and Minister of Environment of Chile
- H.S.H. Prince Albert II Monaco
- Paul Watkinson, SBSTA Chair

13.30 – 13.40 Presentation of IPCC SROCC: Science as a driver of ambition for the ocean

- Valerie Masson-Delmotte, Co-chair of IPCC WGI

13.40 – 13.50 Because the Ocean presentation of the regional workshops and launch of “*Ocean for Climate: Ocean-Related Measures in climate strategies (NDC, NAP, Adaptation Communications and National Policy Framework)*”

- Rémi Parmentier, Secretariat Coordinator Because the Ocean Initiative

13.50 – 14.05 Platform of Science-Based Solutions for the Ocean in a changing climate

- What is the Platform of Science-based Ocean Solutions? Chile

- *Panorama Solutions* by Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservancy and Nuclear Safety of **Germany**
- OA Alliance and Blue Carbon Initiative adheres with new solutions

14.05 – 14.15 **Final Remarks and Closure**

Andrés Couve, Minister of Science of Chile