

RINGO Intervention – 11 June 2026

Thank you, co-facilitators and participants, for the informative session. I'm Natalya Gallo from the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research and the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative and I am presenting this intervention on behalf of RINGO.

We have witnessed a distinct reimagining of the role of the ocean in climate negotiations. These dialogues are moving the ocean agenda forward, and yet, there is so much more to be done, as evidenced by repeated focus on implementation.

Looking ahead, we support alignment and synergistic activities across conventions, including UNCLOS, CBD, BBNJ, and international human rights treaties, and note the recent ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change. Similar alignment is also needed across global assessments including IPCC, IPBES, and the WOA. We also point out the critical need for global ocean observations that allow us to constrain the strength of the ocean carbon sink, detect any changes, and monitor the effects of climate change on ocean temperature, oxygen levels, acidity, primary production, and the health and biodiversity of marine ecosystems – from the coast, to the deep sea. Ocean observing systems remain essential, even when war and conflict affect global priorities.

We express the need for exercising the precautionary principle in pursuing ocean-based solutions that may cause harm to ocean ecosystems, especially concerning marine carbon dioxide removal, geoengineering technologies, and deep sea mining.

We urge parties to consider broad and diverse research in their decision-making that is inclusive of natural and social sciences, humanities, and local and Indigenous knowledge. Ocean-climate issues are incredibly complex and as such more transdisciplinary approaches are needed that reflect the complexity of the issues we face.

We would also like to highlight the mismatch between the scale and importance of ocean-climate solutions and current climate finance. Access to finance for ocean solutions and supporting ocean observing initiatives is key for implementation.

Thank you.