Ringo Statements

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to deliver these remarks on behalf of RINGO. My name is Mitchell Lennan with the University of Aberdeen and the RINGO Thematic Group on Oceans.

The RINGO Ocean Thematic Group welcomes the outcomes of the 2026 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue and encourages Parties to ensure that its key messages are reflected in relevant COP31 decisions and implementation initiatives. Ocean warming, acidification, deoxygenation and sea-level rise are already affecting marine ecosystems, fisheries, food security and coastal livelihoods. These impacts underline the urgency of rapid and sustained greenhouse gas emissions reductions, especially from fossil fuels, alongside strengthened adaptation and ecosystem resilience.

We welcome the recent UNFCCC NDC synthesis report, However, further efforts are needed to translate these commitments into implementation. COP31 provides an opportunity to advance ocean-based action across NDCs, NAPs and relevant UNFCCC processes, including through strengthened conservation and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture, coastal adaptation and maritime decarbonisation. Such efforts should draw on the best available scientific evidence, alongside Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, and promote greater coherence between national climate, biodiversity and human rights obligations.

RINGO supports systematic approaches to implementing negotiated mandates, including clearer pathways for incorporating the Ocean Dialogue's findings into relevant UNFCCC processes. We also see considerable merit in developing a multi-year roadmap for the Dialogue, aligned with the Paris Agreement's ambition and implementation cycle and the second Global Stocktake. Greater continuity between the Dialogue and the Action Agenda could help identify priorities for scientific and technical cooperation and support the monitoring of implementation. Cooperation with relevant international frameworks, including UNCLOS, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the BBNJ Agreement and international human rights law, can further support coherent responses to interconnected ocean, climate and biodiversity challenges, while respecting their distinct mandates.

Effective implementation will require substantially greater access to predictable, adequate and sustained finance, alongside capacity-building and technology development and transfer, particularly for small island developing States, least developed countries and vulnerable coastal communities. Funding arrangements should respond to nationally identified priorities and address existing barriers to accessing climate finance.

RINGO encourages stronger partnerships between researchers, governments, practitioners and coastal communities, drawing on natural and social sciences, the

humanities and diverse knowledge systems. Ocean-based climate measures should incorporate appropriate environmental and social safeguards, with precaution exercised in relation to activities that may cause harm to marine ecosystems, including marine carbon dioxide removal, geoengineering and deep-sea mining. Sustained support for scientific research and knowledge exchange will be essential to ensure that ocean-based climate action delivers measurable and lasting benefits for climate resilience, marine biodiversity and the communities that depend upon the ocean.