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Ocean and Climate Change
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**MESSAGE TO PARTIES AND OBSERVERS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE
SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

I am pleased to convey to Parties and observer States to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, as well as United Nations and related organizations, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations admitted as observers and other non-Party stakeholders a letter from the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice regarding Ambassador Carlos Márcio Cozendey, co-facilitator of the 2025 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue.

The letter is contained in the annex to this note.

Yours sincerely,

Cecilia Kinuthia-Njenga
Director

Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress division

Distribution: To Parties and observer States through their national focal points and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as United Nations and related organizations, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations admitted as observers and other non-Party stakeholders.



Annex

Letter from the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Dear colleagues,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your active engagement in the 2025 ocean and climate change dialogue (“Dialogue”). This year has been momentous for the ocean agenda, and the Dialogue played a significant enabling role in accelerating ocean-based climate ambition. I wish to extend particular gratitude to Ambassador Carlos Márcio Cozendey of Brazil and Ulrik Lenaerts of Belgium as co-facilitators for their leadership in the successful conduct of the Dialogue.

As per the sharing arrangements communicated to me by the developing country Parties, Ambassador Cozendey will pass the baton to Sivendra Michael, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Fiji who will serve as the co-facilitator for the 2026 Dialogue. I take this opportunity to welcome Sivendra and look forward to working closely with him and Ulrik as the co-facilitators for the 2026 Dialogue.

I am pleased to convey a letter from Ambassador Cozendey offering reflections on his experience as co-facilitator and suggestions for the future of the Dialogue. I take this opportunity to express gratitude to Ambassador Cozendey whose commitment, expertise, and stewardship have been instrumental to the success of this year’s Dialogue.

His letter is contained below.

Yours sincerely,

(signed by)

Adonia Ayebare
SBSTA Chair



**Farewell letter from Ambassador Carlos Márcio Cozendey
Co-facilitator of the 2025 Ocean and Climate Change dialogue**

Dear colleagues,

It has been my privilege, over the past year, to co-facilitate the 2025 ocean and climate change dialogue (“Dialogue”). I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow co-facilitator, Ulrik Lenaerts, to the UNFCCC secretariat, and to all Parties, observers, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and non-Party stakeholders who contributed to this year’s Dialogue through their active participation.

Throughout this process, I have had the opportunity to meet numerous individuals — government representatives, members of civil society, scientists, and academics — from a wide range of backgrounds, all united by a shared commitment to the ocean and to addressing climate change. Their engagement demonstrates that the collective will to advance ocean-based climate solutions and to strengthen the protection of marine ecosystems is both strong and growing.

As agreed, the 2026 Dialogue will be co-facilitated by Ulrik Lenaerts and Fiji’s Permanent Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, Sivendra Michael. As I conclude my tenure and COP 30 delivers meaningful ocean-related results, I would like to offer you this message as a result of my reflections on our achievements and on the many perspectives I have heard from stakeholders throughout the year in my role as co-facilitator.

As you are aware, this year’s Dialogue focused on three priority topics: ocean-based measures in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); oceans under the Global Goal on Adaptation; and ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies. In addition, Means of Implementation were addressed as a cross-cutting theme.

The inclusion of ocean solutions in NDCs was, naturally, a central objective. The 2025 NDC cycle provided a timely opportunity to enhance the integration of ocean-based climate action, informed by the Dialogue’s outcomes and supported by initiatives such as the Blue NDC Challenge. It has been encouraging to see concrete results, as reflected in the [2025 NDC Synthesis Report by the secretariat](#)¹: 80 per cent of Parties now make at least one explicit reference to the ocean — an increase of nearly 40 per cent compared with the previous NDC cycles. Preliminary analysis of the subsequent NDC submissions indicate that this trend has been maintained, and a very significant number of adaptation and mitigation measures are now part of Parties’ commitments.

This year, we have witnessed strong and growing momentum for oceans within the climate agenda. The Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), held in Nice, was a landmark occasion where world leaders delivered the declaration “[Our Ocean, Our Future: United for Urgent Action.](#)” affirming that the full implementation of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement is indispensable for

¹ <https://unfccc.int/documents/650664>.



ensuring healthy, resilient, and productive oceans. The Dialogue itself was acknowledged by Parties as a central instrument for advancing this agenda. It was also on this occasion that Brazil and France launched the Blue NDC Challenge, calling on other countries to present ocean related NDC targets and cooperate for their implementation.

The growing acknowledgement of the importance of oceans to climate change was reflected at COP 30. For the first time, oceans were included in the Leaders' Summit agenda, under the segment "Climate and Nature: Forests and Oceans". The interdependence between marine and terrestrial ecosystems was underscored at the highest level. In his remarks, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva emphasized the essential role of coastal and marine ecosystems in addressing climate change.

Brazil also appointed a Special Envoy for the Ocean for COP30, Dr. Marinez Scherer, to guide high-level coordination of ocean-climate priorities. The Call of Belém for the Climate explicitly recognized the importance of oceans in climate action.

Oceans were one of the six priority axes of the COP30 Action Agenda, and a dedicated Blue Package — a plan to accelerate ocean-based climate solutions — was launched.

We have succeeded in underscoring the necessity of integrating the ocean into national climate strategies, and the significant increase in the number of Parties including ocean-related measures in their NDCs is illustrative of this progress. The challenge that now lies ahead is ensuring the effective implementation of these commitments. In this regard, the Dialogue can play a crucial role in the following years by exploring ways to support monitoring, reporting, and implementation.

A number of participants in the Dialogue suggested that it should have a 5-year roadmap for its discussions. While it could be time consuming to arrive at precise language in this respect, some broad thematic lines seem to follow naturally from the ocean-based targets in the NDC submissions and could be the base for increasingly focused discussions under future Dialogues. One possibility, for instance, would be that in each of the following years the Dialogue concentrate, from both a mitigation and adaptation perspective, on each of the main areas covered by ocean-based measures presented by countries in their NDCs: i) Coastal Resilience; ii) Blue Carbon Ecosystems; iii) Renewable Energy; iv) Fisheries and Aquaculture; v) Decarbonization of Maritime Transport. The discussions could exchange experiences on solutions to implement national objectives in those areas and identify the necessity of collective action, if any, which could then eventually inform negotiations.

This includes enhancing cooperation and facilitation through technology transfer, capacity-building, and—above all—adequate, accessible, predictable, and sustainable finance. These cross-cutting issues featured prominently throughout the 2025 Dialogue, and their importance came through clearly. It is therefore natural that they should be present in the next steps of the Dialogue.

COP30's Action Agenda and the Blue Package offer a range of potential pathways for advancing these priorities, including opportunities to strengthen cooperation around initiatives such as the One Ocean Finance Facility proposal. The Dialogue should reflect on how best to integrate and further develop these emerging solutions.



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I am confident that following this natural path, the informal summary reports will be able to identify key priorities for advancing ocean–climate action, and further consolidate the Dialogue’s growing role within the UNFCCC process.

I wish every success to my fellow co-facilitator, Ulrik Lenaerts, and warmly welcome Sivendra Michael to the role of co-facilitator for the 2026 Dialogue.

Brazil remains fully committed to protecting the ocean and advancing ocean-based climate solutions. You may continue to count on our engagement, our partnership, and our unwavering support as this important work moves ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carlos Márcio Bicalho Cozendey".

Ambassador Carlos Márcio Bicalho Cozendey
Co-facilitator
2025 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue