

Statement for the Third Technical Dialogue of the Global Stocktake
Marine LECERF, International Policy Officer, OCP
Plenary session, Tuesday 6 June, 10:00-13:00, Bonn

« Thank you Mr. Co-facilitator,
Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to take the floor. On behalf of the Ocean & Climate Platform — an international coalition of more than a hundred civil society organisations working at the interface between science and policy to promote a better understanding and consideration of ocean, climate and biodiversity interactions — I would like to recall that the ocean is one of our best allies in the fight against climate change. Namely,

- The ocean is our planet's thermostat. Both a powerful carbon sink and heat reservoir, it plays a vital role in regulating the global climate system.
- The ocean is also central to the adaptation and resilience of coastal communities, with coastal ecosystems acting as natural buffers against the growing impacts of climate change.
- At the heart of many communities' culture, identity and values, the ocean ensures food security for more than 3 billion people, while generating sustainable employment and livelihoods.

The ocean has received growing attention in climate discussions over the last few years, with a number of initiatives and coalitions emerging to voice the importance of a healthy ocean. In that sense, I would like to highlight the final decision of COP 25 and subsequent COPs to establish an Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue under the aegis of SBSTA, which provides a space for Parties and non-party stakeholders to discuss the implementation of ocean-climate action. This year's session will take place on 13 and 14 of June and focus on (1) coastal ecosystem restoration and (2) fisheries and food security.

Despite these encouraging signs, the potential of our global ocean has yet to be fully tapped. As of today, 48 out of 116 coastal countries have included coastal and marine Nature-based Solutions as part of their mitigation strategy in their updated Nationally Determined Contributions — and only 15 countries have included blue carbon ecosystems in their GHG inventories.

Since this third and last Technical Dialogue of the Global Stocktake is looking at the next steps to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, we would like to suggest three options for the Global Stocktake to further reflect the potential of ocean-based climate solutions:

- FIRST — To provide guidance to countries on how to effectively include more science-based ocean-related measures for both mitigation and adaptation in their next NDC submissions. Among such measures, we shall emphasise the accounting for ocean change risks, restoring and protecting coastal and marine ecosystems, especially blue carbon (i.e. mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses); developing large-scale offshore wind and marine renewable energy with net-positive biodiversity impact; decarbonizing the shipping and aquatic food industries; and climate-proofing aquatic food systems.
- SECOND — To encourage countries to align their NDCs with other global target, especially their biodiversity counterpart, the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, for increased consistency and impact;
- THIRD — To effectively consider the conclusions of the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue in the Global Stocktake, at COP28, and in any other relevant processes.

Thank you for your attention. »