Thank you Co-Facilitators.

Ocean Visions works with governments, scientists, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, and innovators to advance ocean-based responses to climate change. Our work covers a comprehensive agenda for ocean and climate recovery that spans ocean decarbonization, marine carbon dioxide removal, ecosystem repair, and the development of scientific and institutional capacity to evaluate and govern these approaches responsibly.

Climate change is already driving profound changes across ocean ecosystems while increasing risks to systems critical for regulating the Earth's climate.

At the same time, large-scale carbon dioxide removal has become a central feature of scenarios consistent with long-term Paris Agreement temperature goals. However, durable removal approaches have yet to be developed at anything approaching the scales envisioned for the coming decades.

These developments point to a challenge that extends beyond the urgent need for emissions reductions. They highlight a growing gap between the capabilities embedded in climate stabilization scenarios and those currently available in practice.

The ocean has an important role to play.

Alongside ocean-based mitigation approaches already under development, additional contributions may emerge from areas of innovation that remain at earlier stages of maturity. Ocean Visions recently released a roadmap for seaweed-based climate solutions that identifies applications across food systems, materials, fuels, industrial feedstocks, and carbon management. Developing these sectors will require sustained investment in science, infrastructure, market development, and enabling policy frameworks.

The same principle applies to marine carbon dioxide removal. If carbon dioxide removal is expected to contribute meaningfully to long-term climate goals, governments, research institutions, and international organizations must support the research, development, and demonstration needed to determine which approaches can contribute safely, effectively, and at meaningful scale. This includes

strengthening monitoring capabilities, environmental assessment frameworks, governance arrangements, and international scientific cooperation.

Growing concern regarding climate tipping points further underscores the need for research that can improve our understanding of whether additional approaches may help reduce risks to critical marine ecosystems like Arctic sea ice and slow down their losses. This work requires scientific rigor, transparency, public engagement, and appropriate governance from the outset.

Building these capabilities must be a global effort. Countries cannot meaningfully evaluate emerging opportunities if they lack the scientific infrastructure and capacity, as well as the institutional readiness to assess them. International cooperation therefore remains essential.

One promising example is the Africa mCDR Road Map and the emerging Africa mCDR Partnership, a continent-wide initiative led by African institutions and governments. The partnership is being developed through regional collaboration, with important leadership emerging from the coastal city of Mombasa, in Kenya. These initiatives are helping build scientific, technical, and governance capacity across the continent while ensuring that African priorities, expertise, and leadership help shape the assessment of emerging ocean–climate technologies.

We also welcome the forthcoming Climate Technology Progress Report by the UNEP-CCC, which highlights the importance of ocean–climate technologies, including marine carbon dioxide removal and ocean observation systems. Efforts such as this help strengthen the scientific and policy foundations required to assess emerging ocean-climate technologies and support informed decision-making by Parties.

Ocean-based decarbonization, marine carbon dioxide removal, ecosystem repair, and capacity development each have a role to play in strengthening the portfolio of options available to address climate risk. Accelerating research, governance development, and international cooperation in the years ahead, particularly as Parties prepare the next round of NDCs, can help build the evidence, institutions, and capabilities required for informed decision-making. The choices made today will shape the options available tomorrow.

Thank you.