

UK Intervention 2026 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue

Thank you to the co-facilitators for your excellent leadership and the UNFCCC Secretariat for your support in organising another successful dialogue. The UK welcomes the topics chosen this year and appreciates that they directly address the dialogue's mandated purpose of strengthening ocean-based action in the UNFCCC.

All topics are crucial for translating ocean-climate ambition into tangible action. The twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change are inherently linked and mutually exacerbating. Promoting cooperation and furthering integration of nature in the multilateral system will ensure the best results from implementation, maximising synergies and avoiding trade-offs.

On the first topic we think ensuring coherence across mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity plans can get the best results from implementation through NDCs and other initiatives. We welcome the growth in multistakeholder initiatives such as the Blue NDC Challenge and the Ocean Breakthroughs, which are supporting parties to advance ocean action through their national plans and mobilise resources towards the protection and restoration of key marine ecosystems.

Looking ahead, it is crucial that strong links between the dialogue and other UNFCCC processes, work programmes and constituted bodies are built and maintained. We believe it will be important to communicate the key messages from the dialogue to the wider UNFCCC, ensuring the ocean is integrated where it is relevant.

With regard to the second topic on means of implementation, financial mechanisms need to be sustainable and high-integrity, meaning that they achieve positive, enduring and meaningful results for people, nature, and the climate.

We welcome the focus for the 2026 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance on financing climate action in water systems and the ocean. We see this year's forum as a key moment for adapting existing financial institutions to better serve ocean-climate priorities and enhancing tracking of ocean finance.

Concerning the third topic on synergies and enhanced cooperation, we highlight the critical role that multilateral leadership and partnerships with scientific institutions and civil society organisations play in aligning national and international priorities with biodiversity protection, climate goals, sustainable ocean finance and sustainable development. These collaborations strengthen transparency, accountability, and innovation.

We appreciate the previous work of the Brazilian Presidency and welcome the work of the incoming presidency on the Action Agenda, to bring together these initiatives and to enhance collaboration around a single set of objectives. This coherence is needed to ensure that the growth of ocean as an issue in the Action Agenda does not lead to fragmentation and siloed working.

We see the dialogue as a potential mechanism for identifying synergies between the UNFCCC and other instruments, frameworks and bodies. It could, for example, help Parties to identify and understand climate-smart approaches to implementation of BBNJ processes, such as environmental impact assessments and area-based management tools.

The dialogue is uniquely placed and equipped to ensure that the role of the ocean is fully considered in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and we welcome the information note which helpfully identifies opportunities for ocean within UNFCCC and across other UN and non-UN processes.

We look forward to continuing to work with all of you.