

Remarks on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Mr. Majed Bamya, First Counsellor at the Mission of the State of Palestine at the Second Informal Consultation on the Draft Resolution “The 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development”, 25 February 2019

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

I have the honour to deliver these remarks on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. At the outset, allow me to express my appreciation on behalf of the Group to Portugal and Kenya for their positive engagement and for this revised version of the resolution on modalities, which addresses some of the key concerns of the Group and remains in line with the spirit and letter of the modalities’ resolution for the first UN Ocean Conference.

Regarding the text of the draft resolution, the Group suggests the following edits:

- PP7: The Group wants to retain the second part of this paragraph as it appeared in the zero draft, as this is agreed language from General Assembly resolutions, including GA resolutions 72/73 and 73/124, and it rightly emphasizes the importance of the call for action that was adopted by consensus.
- PP12: The Group wishes to express support for this addition that highlights the importance of oceans, seas and marine resources, for implementing the 2030 Agenda as a whole.
- OP 4(h): The Group reiterates its desire to see the wording “Assess the implementation of the voluntary commitments” replaced by “Provide an update on the implementation of the voluntary commitments”.
- OP 5: Given the clarifications provided by the co-facilitators, the Group is in a position to support the suggested theme for the Conference.
- OP 18 and other paragraphs regarding the outcome of the Conference: This matter remains under consideration by the Group, notably the prospect of an intergovernmentally agreed declaration.
- OP 22: The Group supports the reference to the contribution of the Communities of Ocean Action. The United Nations launched nine thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action to follow-up on the implementation of the voluntary commitments made at the first UN Ocean Conference and to generate new voluntary commitments; as well as facilitate collaboration and networking amongst different actors in support of SDG 14. The 2nd UN Ocean Conference is not taking place in a vacuum and should build on the outcomes of the 1st UN Ocean Conference, including the Communities of Ocean Action.
- Para.16 of the annex: The Group supports maintaining the practice observed during the first UN Ocean Conference.

In closing, the Group once again reaffirms its support to the co-facilitators in their efforts towards a swift adoption of the modalities’ resolution. Thank you.