

as of 26 May 2015

Statement of the Group of 77 and China
World Oceans Day
8 June 2015

Madame Moderator,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We congratulate UNESCO and the IOC for convening this commemoration of World Ocean's Day.
2. We thank His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, H.E. Tommy Remengesau, President of Palau, H.E. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados, H.E. Vice President Danny Faure of Seychelles, and Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius of France for their presence with us.
3. We welcome this focus on the oceans and climate change, as we look forward to strong global action on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, which has a dedicated goal 14 on the oceans, seas and marine resources. We recall that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources.
4. We also look forward to a successful 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December in Paris. We believe UNESCO and the IOC have significant roles to play in raising awareness and mobilizing key stakeholders, especially in marine scientific research and the transfer of marine technology.
5. At the Santa Cruz Summit last year, Leaders of the G77 and China stressed the importance of the oceans and seas and their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, economic growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods and decent work. They also emphasized the need to protect the marine environment and biodiversity and address the impacts of climate change.
6. In particular, small-island developing states face unique vulnerabilities and challenges. Climate change, including sea-level rise, poses the greatest threat to the sustainable development -- and in some cases even the existence -- of small-island developing states.
7. We recognize the commendable measures of several governments, including those of Palau, Barbados, and Seychelles to safeguard their peoples from climate change, including through the protection and sustainable use of their oceans.
8. Nevertheless, we would like to see much more international assistance and cooperation in this area. We call for increased financial resources, capacity-building, transfer of technology and know-how, and increased participation of small-island developing states

and developing countries in international economic decision-making, in particular with regards to the protection, management and sustainable use of oceans and seas.

9. We strongly support implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action or Samoa Pathway, outcome of the Third International Conference for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in 2014.
10. The G77 and China would like to remind that UNCLOS provides clear rules for the transfer of marine technology. Unfortunately, Part XIV of the Convention has the largest implementation gap. We value the IOC Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, but we believe much more needs to be done. We welcome the process towards the development of a legally binding international instrument under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
11. While developing countries, in particular least developed countries and SIDS, are historically least responsible for climate change, they disproportionately bear the brunt of the climate crisis by being at its frontlines. The rise in extreme weather events such as devastating tropical storms and severe droughts are a constant threat to our security and prosperity.
12. My own country, the Philippines, experienced the strongest typhoon to ever make landfall in 2013. The recent typhoon which hit Vanuatu and three other Pacific SIDS is yet another example of the adverse and increasingly devastating impacts of climate change.
13. Only by addressing – in the competent fora - the root causes of climate change can this vicious cycle of destruction and reconstruction be averted. We must likewise act on the effects of climate change on the oceans. Action must be taken collectively and urgently by the international community guided by science, in ways that allow developing countries to pursue economic goals in the context of sustainable development.
14. In the spirit of the Manila Call issued by President Aquino of the Philippines and President Hollande of France earlier this year, we express the hope for a successful, equitable, and ambitious outcome of the COP 21.

Thank you.