

Global Ocean Forum Suggested Amendments to Rio+20 Zero Draft

The Global Ocean Forum welcomes the focus on oceans, coasts, and small island developing States in the Rio+20 process and in the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome. We call on countries and civil society representatives to continue to push for a strong ocean outcome from the Rio+20 Conference that will reflect the importance of oceans, coasts, and small island developing States in achieving sustainable development goals.

We support the existing paragraphs of the zero draft and provide herein our suggested amendments (in track changes) to the section on "Oceans and Seas, SIDS."

78. We recognize that oceans are critical to sustaining Earth's life support systems. Careless exploitation of the oceans and their resources puts at risk the ability of oceans to continue to provide food, livelihoods, and other social and economic benefits, and environmental services to humankind. We stress the importance of the conservation, sustainable management and equitable sharing of marine and ocean resources. We also recognize the significant economic, social and environmental contribution of coral reefs to island and coastal States, and support cooperation based on the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

79. We endorse the Regular Process for the Global Marine Assessment as a credible, robust process, and support the completion of its first global integrated assessment of the state of the marine environment by 2014. We call for consideration of assessment findings in formulation of national, regional and global oceans policy.

(New)

We call for enhanced integrated, ecosystem-based governance and management of oceans and coasts at the national, regional, and global level, and in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, including through the scaling-up of successful integrated coastal and ocean management initiatives by 2020.

(New)

We call for ecosystem-based approaches for ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the context of integrated ocean governance, particularly through marine spatial planning and the establishment of networks of marine protected areas, with a view to achieving the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Target of conserving or managing at least 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020.

80. We note the establishment by the UN General Assembly of an Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and we agree to initiate, as soon as possible, the negotiation of an implementing agreement to UNCLOS that would address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

81. We call on countries to advance implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, including further capacity-building and mobilization of resources for investment in treatment of human wastes and waste water and to develop a global action plan to combat marine litter and pollution in the context of integrated coastal and ocean management.

82. We recognize the significant threats to oceans and coastal communities posed by climate

change and increased GHG emissions (e.g. sea-level rise, increased frequency and intensity of coastal storms, ocean acidification) and commit to work collectively to address climate-related impacts, including through deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, ecosystem-based adaptation, supported by sufficient funding, to increase the resilience of coastal communities and marine ecosystems, and the establishment of an international observing network for ocean acidification.

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83. We note that despite agreement to restore global fish stocks to sustainable levels by 2015, many stocks continue to be depleted unsustainably. We call upon States to re-commit to maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks to sustainable levels and to further commit to implementing science-based management plans to rebuild stocks by 2015, including through the strengthening and, where appropriate, creation of new Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

84. We urge countries to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by adopting and implementing effective tools, in accordance with international law, particularly the establishment of a global registry of fishing vessels, and the strengthening of monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures. We note the agreement on port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing approved by FAO in 2009 and urge States that have not yet acceded to the agreement to do so.

85. We reaffirm that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including the direct threats posed by sea-level rise and other climate-related impacts. The vulnerability of SIDS has worsened over the last two decades, primarily because of higher exposure to external shocks, including increasing adverse impacts of climate change and more frequent and intense natural disasters as well as the fuel, food, and financial crises, combined with inadequate international support.

86. We recognize the need to assist SIDS in achieving sustainable development goals and enjoying the economic and social benefits derived from the use of marine resources located within their EEZs, and call for increased technical and financial assistance to SIDS in implementing the BPOA and MSI, as well as improvement and strengthening of the relevant entities within the United Nations system that support SIDS' sustainable development. We also call for the convening of the third international conference for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States in 2014.

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We call for increased levels of strategic funding from States, donors, and international financial institutions for capacity building at local, national, and regional levels to enhance integrated, ecosystem-based ocean and coastal management. We also call for the establishment of a system of periodic assessments of overall expenditures and aggregate impact of capacity development efforts.

(New)

We call for the elevation of oceans to the highest levels of the UN system to enable a cross-cutting approach and timely response to major threats and opportunities, including through the establishment of a UN Secretary-General or other high-level coordination mechanism on oceans.