

Global Ocean Forum

A Review of Member States' Perspectives on a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Oceans and Seas

A review of statements made by Member States during the 8th to 12th Sessions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, 3-7 February 2014, 31 March- 4 April, 2014, 5-9 May 2014, and 16-20 June 2014, respectively, at UN Headquarters, New York, and subsequent information

Compiled by Alexis Martin and Erica Wales

One of the major outputs of the Rio+20 process was the launching of “an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the United Nations General Assembly” (*The Future We Want*, Para 248). This established an Open Working Group (OWG) of the UN General Assembly, comprised of 30 seats shared by 70 member States, tasked with creating a set of sustainable development goals to guide sustainable development actions and financing at global and national levels to 2030. Since March 2013, the OWG has been negotiating on what set of SDGs to include, what specific targets should be addressed in each SDG, and means of implementation. **There are currently 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals, each with a set of targets and means of implementation, to be attained by 2030, including Goal 14, conserve and promote sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources.**

There are, at present, 79 member States that support a stand-alone oceans and seas SDG. Out of the 79 member States:

- 37 countries are members of the OWG (53% of the OWG)
- 42 countries are not members of the OWG¹

¹ Countries that are part of the PSIDS, AOSIS, and CARICOM groupings are represented in this number.

Member States in Support of a Stand-Alone Oceans and Seas SDG

Angola	Israel (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Sao Tome and Principe
Antigua and Barbuda	Italy (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Saudi Arabia (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Australia (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Jamaica	Seychelles
Bahamas (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Japan (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Singapore (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Barbados (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Kazakhstan (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Slovenia (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Belgium	Kiribati	Solomon Islands
Belize	Malawi	Spain (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Botswana	Maldives	St. Kitts and Nevis
Canada (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Marshall Islands	St. Lucia
Cabo Verde	Mauritius	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Comoros	Monaco	Suriname
Cook Islands	Montenegro (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Swaziland
Croatia (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Montserrat	Switzerland (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Cuba	Mozambique	Timor Leste
Cyprus (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Namibia	Tonga
Denmark (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Nauru (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Trinidad and Tobago (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Dominica	Netherlands (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Turkey (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Dominican Republic	New Zealand	Tuvalu
Federated States of Micronesia	Niue	United Arab Emirates (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Fiji	Norway (<i>OWG Member</i>)	United States of America (<i>OWG Member</i>)
France (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Palau (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Vanuatu
Germany (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Papua New Guinea (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Zambia (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Ghana (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Poland (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Zimbabwe (<i>OWG Member</i>)
Grenada	Portugal	
Greece	Romania (<i>OWG Member</i>)	
Guyana (<i>OWG Member</i>)	Samoa	
Guinea Bissau		
Haiti (<i>OWG Member</i>)		
Indonesia (<i>OWG Member</i>)		
Ireland (<i>OWG Member</i>)		

At the next and last meeting of the OWG, 14-18 July 2014, member states and civil society will have the opportunity to finalize consultations on SDGs and targets, as well as adopt the report on SDGs and targets to be submitted to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in August 2014. Subsequently, the report will be considered during the 69th UNGA Session when adopting the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015.

PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper reviews the various perspectives expressed by member states (or groups of states) regarding a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans and Seas, on the basis of oral and written submissions during the Open Working Group sessions. The intent is to inform the wider ocean community of member state perspectives and to help identify areas of commonality and consensus among various perspectives.

The reader should note that comments about the oceans and seas SDG (14.1 to 14.11) relate to the SDG draft negotiated during the deliberations in the OWG 12 (16-20 June 2014), text found at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4269mgscompilation.pdf>.

The revised SDG zero draft to be discussed at the OWG 13 session (14-18 July 2014) is available at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4044zerodraft.pdf>.

SUPPORTING A STAND-ALONE OCEANS AND SEAS SDG

--Pacific Small Island Developing States and Timor-Leste^{2,3} (OWG Member: Asia-Pacific Group)

- OWG 12
 - Do not support merging of Goals 14 and 15
 - 14.1-14.3, merge
 - Need food security target
- OWG 11
 - Supports a stand-alone goal on oceans and seas
 - Target on fish stocks needs to be robust and need to be restored above levels which can produce maximum sustainable yield; this would be in line with existing commitments
 - Note the importance of small scale fisheries (especially to women and youth); suggest topic is worthy of its own target
 - Target F is supported, suggest strengthening it by reflecting existing commitments, and adding that MPAs should be in line with best available science
 - Support new target on ocean acidification

² IISD 2014a; IISD 2014b; IISD 2014d; Permanent Mission of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations 2014b; Permanent Mission of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations 2014c

³ PSIDS is comprised of 12 countries

- Add to target G- elimination of subsidies which artificially maintain the profitability of otherwise unsustainable fisheries; broaden target to eliminate global fishing overcapacity
- Suggest target to encourage promotion of investment in sustainable tourism
- Title of goal to read “take urgent and significant action to ensure healthy, productive and resilient oceans and seas” in line with text from *The Future We Want*
- OWG 10
 - Targets suggested at OWG 10:
 - By 2020, establish a system of MPAs within and beyond national jurisdiction
 - Address ocean acidification
 - Restore healthy, migratory and straddling fish stocks
 - Manage bycatch and discards
 - Eliminate harmful fishing subsidies
 - Create job opportunities while respecting sustainable development
 - Enhance technical and scientific collaboration, including building capacity
 - Implement relevant conventions and regional protocols on integrated and ecosystem-based ocean and coastal management
 - Reduce marine pollution
 - Ensure coastal and island communities have adequate resources and capacity to adapt to ocean acidification and ocean warming, including climate change-induced displacement
 - Eliminate IUU fishing
 - Assess RFMO progress and performance
 - “it is time to marry Mother Earth with Father Ocean”
 - target on fish stocks needs to be robust
 - MPAs should be in line with science
- OWG 8
 - “Natural environment is the heritage of the PSIDS and Timor-Leste; the vitality of the oceans and seas are integral”
 - Proposal of a stand-alone SDG to achieve healthy, productive, and resilient oceans and seas:
 - Targets
 - Healthy and well-managed marine environment
 - Development of MPAs, reduction of pollution, address the causes and impacts of coral bleaching and ocean acidification
 - Restoring healthy fish stocks
 - End of destructive fishing practices
 - Eliminate IUU fishing
 - Develop strong monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement systems
 - Environmental impact assessment
 - Assisting LDCs, African countries, and SIDS to realize the benefits of sustainably developed marine resources
 - Develop mechanisms to ensure the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred
 - Integrate principles of ocean based economy
 - Improve access and equity to fisheries for subsistence, small scale and artisanal fisheries, women fish workers and indigenous people
 - Provide support for sustainable tourism

-- United States, Israel, Canada⁴ (OWG Member: Western European and Others Group)

- OWG 12
 - Supports stand-alone goal
 - 14.1, increase specificity of types of pollution (to include plastics and nutrient pollution)
 - 14.2, could tie into 14.4 or 14.8 or could be dropped
 - Welcome ocean acidification target
 - Support 14.4, simplify for clarity
 - Strike 14.5 and 14.6 as they are addressed elsewhere
 - Support 14.7 and 14.8, but want mention on coastal ecosystems
 - Worry about how compelling targets are, 14.10 is to generate economic development and 14.11 is a process
 - Wants connection between food security and oceans goal for aquaculture
- OWG 11
 - the highlighting of reduction of marine debris, particularly from plastics and the reduction of nutrient effluent in order to reduce hypoxic zones
 - separate ocean acidification as single target
 - strongly support eliminating IUU fishing
 - specifics on 10% of marine and coastal areas protected by MPAs
 - delete target on resources in ABNJ
- OWG 10
 - Support for a well-crafted, transformative goal to protect the oceans
 - Oceans are an essential source of livelihood for many people globally
 - Not the right forum for addressing governance of biodiversity and of marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction
 - Targets:
 - Reduction of marine pollution and debris, including from land-based activities
 - Establishment of MPAs and conservation of coastal and marine areas
 - Address overfishing and other unsustainable fishing practices
 - Eliminate harmful subsidies that promote overfishing and overcapacity
- OWG 8
 - Issues (oceans, biodiversity, forests) must be integrated to respond to interconnections
 - Based on the science and the potential for impact, troika believes that stand-alone goal on oceans warrants serious consideration but stressed the number of limited goals intended

Contact: H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Cousens, US Representative to ECOSOC

--Cyprus, Singapore, United Arab Emirates⁵ (OWG Member: Asia-Pacific Group)

- OWG12
- OWG 11
 - Supports a goal on oceans and seas that upholds what has been agreed internationally
 - SDG targets should be at a minimum at par with targets agreed internationally and not short of them, and beyond
 - Target C is not in line with 2020 Aichi deadline

⁴ Permanent Mission of the Canada to the UN 2014; Permanent Mission of the United States to the UN 2014a; Permanent Mission of the United States to the UN 2014b; IISD2014b

⁵ IISD 2014b; IISD 2014d; Permanent Mission of Singapore to the UN 2014; Permanent Mission of United Arab Emirates to the UN 2014; Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the UN 2014

- Target F has not target date for its implementation while respective Aichi target 11 sets 2020 deadline
 - Target A has a target deadline of 2025 in the Rio+20 outcome document
 - Modify Target D “...including for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction)
- OWG 10
 - Possible Targets from OWG10:
 - reducing marine pollution and debris
 - halting destruction of the marine habitat including ocean acidification
 - promoting sustainable exploitation of marine resources
 - establishing MPAs
- OWG 8
 - Observe that unlike the water and energy topics, oceans and seas do not inspire same confidence that they could be formulated into possible SDGs
 - Troika is of the view that a dedicated SDG on oceans and the sea may be considered
 - Cyprus and Singapore consider UNCLOS as the overarching framework to focus all efforts
 - Possible targets: sustainable use of ABNJ, healthy marine environment, addressing ocean acidification
 - Mainstreaming biodiversity into other SDGs

Contact: H.E. Ms. Karen Tan, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN

--Romania and Poland⁶ (OWG Member: Eastern European Group)

- OWG 12
 - Support stand-alone goal
 - Refer to 2030 for targets
 - Marine pollution should include point and diffuse sources of land-based sources
- OWG 11
 - Could be considered a stand-alone goal on the sustainable use of marine resources, oceans, and seas, and also
 - Should be integrated into the framework as a cross-cutting issue (food security and nutrition; climate change; sustainable consumption and production; energy; sustainable cities and human settlements; disaster risk reduction; sustainable agriculture; land desertification; forests; ecosystems and biodiversity; women’s empowerment; sustainable tourism)
 - Support targets A, B, D, F, G
- OWG 10
 - Stressed reducing and eliminating marine pollution, including from land-based sources and ships
 - Support efforts to reduce marine pollution including from land-based activities
 - Halt destruction of marine resources
 - Eliminate subsidies that promote overcapacity in fishing
 - Protect BBNJ
 - Sustainable exploitation of marine resources
 - Encourage sustainable small-scale fisheries
 - Protect marine resources in ABNJ including by establishing MPAs
- OWG 8

⁶ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014b; IISD 2014d; Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations 2014; Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations 2014b; Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations 2014c

- View that oceans and seas should represent a stand-alone goal, but are open to discussing ways and means for addressing ocean-related issues in a cross-cutting manner under different SDGs
- Most important dimension of a goal on oceans and seas is to reduce/eliminate pollution of the seas and oceans and to protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity, by returning the quality of the marine environment, existing in the year 1950
- Targets suggested:
 - Rebuilding and restoring the marine ecosystems, including marine biodiversity and fish stocks, at healthy and resilient levels;
 - Reducing pollution from land-based sources and ships (including oil platforms and exploitation of mineral resources);
 - Protecting and restoring the coastal and marine areas critical to food security and livelihoods through effectively and equitably managed systems of marine protected areas (MPAs);
 - Sustainable fisheries which integrate the regenerative capacity of stocks, the endangered species enhanced protection and the reduction of risks of bycatch of certain species (dolphins);
 - Managing and controlling all types of maritime uses and assessing, understanding and mitigating all types of marine environmental impacts (including the effects of climate change and other types of land-based pollution)

--Nauru, for AOSIS^{7,8} (*OWG Member: Asia-Pacific Group*)

- OWG 12
- OWG 11
 - Targets suggested at OWG11:
 - Take immediate action by adopting measures necessary to enhance ocean scientific information (protecting marine ecosystems)
 - Take immediate action on restoring fisheries with the aim of achieving this goal in the shortest time feasible as determined by characteristics. Where overfishing is occurring, take immediate action to adopt science-based management plans reducing or suspending fishing catch and effort that are commensurate with the status of the stock to ensure that by 2020 overfishing has ended
 - Take immediate action to, in accordance with relevant commitments, including those made in the JPOI and TFWW to eliminate IUU fishing
 - Establish MPAs by 2020 in accordance with best available science and consistent with existing commitments
 - Eliminate fishing subsidies by 2020
 - By 2030 improve equity and access to fisheries and markets
 - By 2030 increase by X% support for sustainable tourism activities
 - “Regional and global programs are in particular relevant for understanding, assessing, and monitoring global ocean stressors, as well as provide adequate forecasts and projects of global changes”
- OWG 10
 - Oceans and seas should be addressed in an SDG
 - Targets should include:

⁷ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014b; Permanent Mission of Nauru to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of Nauru to the United Nations 2014b

⁸ AOSIS is comprised of 39 Members (plus 5 observers)

- Marine ecosystems are restored and safeguarded, marine biodiversity is effectively protected and fish stocks are rebuilt and maintained at healthy and productive levels
 - Coastal and marine areas critical to food security and livelihoods are protected and restored through area-based conservation measures, including effective and equitably managed systems of MPAs, consistent with international law
 - Oceans and seas are sustainably managed through the implementation of the ecosystem- based approach
 - All types of maritime uses are effectively managed and controlled; all types of marine environmental impacts are assessed, understood, and mitigated
 - Effects of climate change and ocean acidification to the marine ecosystems are effectively addressed and the rate of investment to strengthen the resilience and security of all countries, particularly of the most vulnerable including SIDS, against the adverse impact of climate change and natural disaster is increased
 - Increase the rate of investment in environmentally friendly infrastructure that strengthens the resilience and security of all countries
 - Build human and institutional capacities to conserve, sustainably manage, and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries
- OWG 8
 - SIDS are not the only ones affected by oceans and seas, which are crucial for: global food security, human health, regulating the climate, and providing water and oxygen
 - Coral reefs are important ecosystems and coral bleaching is a key threat

Contact: H.E. Marlene Moses, Permanent Mission of Nauru to the UN

--Croatia⁹ (OWG Member: Eastern European Group)

- OWG 12
- OWG 11
 - (Without Bulgaria) called for a goal on sustainable use of oceans and seas
 - Highlight linkages between marine resources and coastal areas
 - Suggestions:
 - Highlight the importance of restoration and protection of marine ecosystems for humankind by adding “enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations”
 - New target on “implementing integrated and participatory coastal zone management, including appropriate transboundary cooperation”
 - Stresses the importance of science-policy interface for success of post-2015 framework
 - Stressed the linkages between marine resources and coastal areas
- OWG 10
 - (With Bulgaria) called for a stand-alone goal on sustainable management of natural resources
 - Targets suggested:
 - Reducing marine pollution
 - Sustainable fisheries
 - Regional and international governance of oceans and seas
- OWG 8
 - (With Bulgaria)
 - Oceans are the source of life “not just for fish but also for us,” and are crucial for sustainable development

⁹ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014b; IISD 2014d; Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations 2014

Contact: Permanent Representative Vladimir Drobnjak, Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations

--Barbados (for CARICOM and the Bahamas)^{10,11} (*OWG Member: Latin American and Caribbean Group*)

- OWG 12
- OWG 11
 - Targets suggested:
 - “Strengthening the resilience of coastal communities against environmental and economic shocks”
 - “By 2020, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change on ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning”
 - “Support small scale fisheries and the need to improve access and equity to fisheries and markets”
 - Establishing MPAs and eliminate fishing subsidies should be considered as means of implementation
- OWG 10
 - Ocean-related target priorities:
 - Reduce marine pollution and debris including from land-based sources
 - Address ocean acidification
 - Strengthen resilience of coastal communities
 - Strengthen regional cooperation for straddling fish stocks
 - Eliminate harmful subsidies that contribute to overfishing
 - Address IUU and destructive fishing practices
 - Build capacity and technology transfer to enable countries to realize the full benefits of resources within their EEZs
 - Improving health and resilience of marine habitats, including coral reefs
 - Encourage small-scale fisheries
 - Ensuring full implementation of regional and international regimes governing oceans and seas
 - Establishing MPAs
 - Encourage sustainable aquaculture including mariculture
 - Conservation and use of sustainable marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- OWG 8
 - To be addressed:
 - Address pollution from illegal or accidental dumping of hazardous wastes
 - Adherence to the fisheries code of conduct
 - Focus on marine biological diversity in ABNJ and how developing countries can derive benefits from these resources
 - Establishment of a global network to monitor ocean acidification
 - Increased means and resources for research
 - Assessment and management of small scale fisheries
 - Establishment of a regime for monitoring fish vessels to prevent and deter IUU fishing

¹⁰ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014b; IISD 2014d; Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations 2014; Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations 2014

¹¹ CARICOM is comprised of 15 Member States (plus 5 Associate Members)

--New Zealand¹² (*Not an OWG Member*)

- OWG 12
 - Strongly support stand-alone goal
 - 14.10 is most important, but wonder if it is a global target
 - 14.9 continue to support elimination of subsidies
 - 14.8 needs to be by 2020 and consistent with international law and 10% by MPAs
 - 14.7 or 14.4, supports IUU restrictions but needs rewording
 - 14.2, higher bar for protecting marine ecosystems
 - 14.1, could merge 3 targets into one
- OWG 11
 - Suggestions:
 - Streamline Target A & B
 - Need greater focus on eliminating overfishing
 - Support elimination of IUU and destructive fishing practices
 - Broaden target F on MPAs to integrate Aichi commitments and best available scientific information
 - Eliminate subsidies by 2025 and refrain from the introduction of new subsidies
- OWG 8
 - Oceans and seas is a very important issue for New Zealand, and one which they want to see well- reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ideally as a stand-alone goal
 - The overarching answer links to the truly critical nature of oceans to the health of our planet and our livelihoods. When considered in this light it is hard to imagine how member States could “map” the next 15 years of development priorities and exclude oceans and seas.
 - However putting aside that larger picture, there are also three other reasons why for New Zealand considers having an oceans SDG would add value to existing commitments:
 - Integrate existing commitments. While the world addresses human activities in the oceans on a sectoral basis, the impacts are not sectoral in nature. The call for a more integrated approach to oceans has been reiterated numerous times over the last two days. The first step is surely to bring all of these challenges and commitments into one place to can see how they interact and intersect. An oceans SDG would do that.
 - Inclusion of oceans in the SDGs would catalyze much needed action to implement existing commitments. The time has well passed for many of these commitments. The SDG process can build that momentum. It can also galvanize greater support to developing countries, particularly SIDS, to implement these commitments through capacity building and technology transfer.
 - Lastly, but certainly not least, the inclusion of oceans in the SDG will enable to measure progress towards achieving these objectives. Some data are available but it’s recognized that more will be needed. Measurability will be a challenge across all potential SDGs. It could also be an opportunity; there are impacts on the oceans that would benefit from greater monitoring but we lack the means or impetus to do this.
 - New Zealand, as a strong supporter of an ambitious outcome for oceans, stands ready to work with others during the next phase of the SDG process on an oceans goal that builds on the outcomes in *The Future We Want*.

¹² Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations 2014b

--Portugal (*Not an OWG Member*)

- OWG 12
 - Support stand-alone goal
 - Would like support goal that supports MPAs
 - Underlined importance of achieving 14.8 with 10% of coastal and marine areas
 - 14.2 and 14.3, merge
 - Need reference to maximum sustainable fishing
 - Refer to 14.4 and 14.9 to eliminate fisheries subsidies
 - Would like to highlight IUU which destroys fish stocks
 - Supports 14.7
 - 14.6 is very important

Contact: H.E. Mr. Pedro Nuno Bártolo, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

--Maldives¹³ (*Not an OWG Member*)

- OWG 12
- OWG 11
 - Called for a stand-alone goal on oceans and seas
 - Consistency with international targets
 - Reference to supporting aquaculture
 - Establishing MPAs should include ABNJ
- OWG 10
 - Targets suggested:
 - Eliminating marine pollution
 - IUU fishing
 - Rebuilding, restoring and maintaining marine ecosystems
 - Ending perverse subsidies
 - Promoting small-scale sustainable fisheries
 - Integrating appropriate MOI in regard to specific targets
- OWG 8
 - The Maldives joins others who call for the need of a stand-alone Goal on Oceans in the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Believe a stand-alone goal on Oceans and Seas offers the best approach to capture the myriad of the vital contributions of Oceans to all three pillars of Sustainable Development. It should aim to maximize the economic value of ocean economies. It should make sure that no synergies are lost in the underlying aim to eradicate poverty, provide food security and ensure decent work for all. It should further aim to ensure that these contributions are long-term, by removing the biggest stresses that threaten the Ocean, namely marine pollution and debris, overfishing, and climate change. Last but not least, it should make sure that all countries have the means, including capacity and technology, to enable them to effectively implement and monitor the necessary measures.
 - True forests of the country lie “below the waves” in the coral reefs that structure the marine environment

Contact: H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the UN

¹³ IISD 2014a; IISD2014b; Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations 2014b

--Marshall Islands, for the Pacific Islands Forum¹⁴ (Not an OWG Member)

- OWG 8
 - Unique global character of oceans and seas
 - World must deliver coherent and confident action, including through a stand-alone goal on oceans and seas

Contact: H.E. Ms. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua, Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the UN

--Cuba¹⁵ (Not an OWG Member)

- OWG 8
 - Supports an SDG on oceans and seas
 - Goal should focus on:
 - Increasing developing countries' capacity to benefit from conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and their resources
 - Protect exotic species
 - Reduce pollution of the seas
 - Improve resiliency of ocean communities and environments

Contact: H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the UN

--Italy, Spain, Turkey¹⁶ (OWG Member: Western European and Others Group)

- OWG 12
 - Support stand-alone goal
 - Revise 14.1 and 14.2 with extensive changes
 - 14.3, to include reduce greenhouse gases
 - 14.7, with integrated coastal management
 - Include adaptive measures for coastal and marine ecosystems
- OWG 11
 - Targets supported:
 - Restoration and protection of marine ecosystems
 - Elimination of harmful subsidies
 - “to strengthen in an urgent basis action to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing and to manage by-catch, discards, and other adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries, including by eliminating destructive fishing practices”
- OWG 10
 - Targets:
 - Maintaining the capacity of oceans as healers, with specific emphasis on the role of SIDS
 - Reducing marine pollution and debris, including collecting available scientific data to establish reference levels and concrete measures for reduction by 2020
 - Halting destruction of marine habitat including OA, with inclusion of preserving coral reefs

¹⁴ IISD 2014a

¹⁵ IISD 2014a

¹⁶ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014b; Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations 2014; Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations 2014

- Promoting sustainable exploitation of marine resources, including assuring equitable share of fish resources particularly for those dependent on fishing for food security and subsistence
 - Addressing IUU & destructive fishing habitats
 - Encouraging sustainable small-scale fisheries
 - Eliminating harmful subsidies that promote fishing overcapacity
 - Ensuring full implementation of regional & international regimes governing oceans and seas
- Recognize the importance of oceans and seas to sustainable development; support consideration of goal
- OWG 8
 - *Turkey supported a stand-alone SDG on Oceans and Seas during PSIDS/IOC/GOF Side Event on 3 February 2014*
 - Noted the negative impacts that climate change, pollution, overfishing, and invasive species have on the oceans, and the related threats to humans
 - Global commitment is needed to protect the oceans and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels that don't threaten life on the planet

Contact: H.E. Sebastiano Cardi, Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN

--Japan¹⁷ (OWG Member: Asia-Pacific Group)

- OWG 12
 - Support 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.8
 - 14.5 should be means of implementation
 - 14.6 this is a cross-cutting issue in Goal 16
 - 14.7 IUU issue is serious but need to consider discussions in other fora but will consider agreeing with it
 - 14.9 discussed in WTO framework, do not support as it will pre-judge
 - 14.10, some concerns with target
- OWG 11
 - Stated support for stand-alone goal on oceans and seas at OWG11
 - Targets suggested:
 - 2030 suggested goal on fishing subsidies
 - Targets on marine pollution, restoring marine ecosystems, and IUU fishing acceptable
 - Difficulty in accepting targets on responsible fisheries management systems, MPAs, and eliminating fishing subsidies
- OWG 10
 - “Oceans also provide huge amount of natural resources, and therefore, we believe that oceans are an important element for sustainable development. As many speakers pointed out, oceans have many challenges now, such as marine pollution, acidification, IUU fishing and sea level rising, and we should address oceans and seas in the discussion of SDGs in a holistic manner”
 - Believe that biodiversity should be included as a central component of a goal which relates to the protection of ecosystems, including oceans
 - Establishment of MPAs should be based on scientific knowledge and findings

¹⁷ Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations 2014b; IISD 2014a; IISD 2014b

- OWG 8
 - Urged mindfulness of existing frameworks and conventions in order to avoid duplication and to ensure complementarity
 - Suggested including biodiversity as part of possible goal on protecting ecosystems
 - Highlighted the role of education and science for sustainable development

Contact: Hiroshi Minami, Deputy Director General for Global Issues of the Foreign Ministry of Japan

--Slovenia and Montenegro¹⁸ (OWG Member: Eastern European Group)

- OWG 12
 - Strongly support stand-alone goal
 - 14.2, want target to refer to health and productivity of marine ecosystems
 - Eliminate harm subsidies
 - Support UNCLOS on sustainable use in ABNJ
- OWG 11
 - At OWG11, showed support for a stand-alone goal on oceans and seas
 - Suggested targets:
 - Marine pollution and marine disposal
 - MPAs within jurisdiction and ABNJ, in accordance to Aichi targets
 - Include MSP
 - Support protecting small-scale fisheries
 - Promotion of land-shore-sea connections
- OWG 10
 - Targets should include:
 - Unsustainable extraction of marine resources
 - Marine pollution
 - Possible actions include: promoting sustainable use of marine resources, encouraging sustainable small-scale fisheries, establishing MPAs
 - Further deliberations on: promoting connections with land/shore/sea for sustainable use and decreasing conflicts among sectors
- OWG 8
 - Emphasized the need for ICM
 - Highlighted unsustainable extraction of marine resources, MPAs, and efforts to decrease conflicts among the different uses of shore and sea
 - Include genetic diversity of farmed and cultivated species under the sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition goal
 - Address invasive alien species within water and sanitation goal

Contact: H.E. Andrej Logar, Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the UN

--Indonesia, Kazakhstan¹⁹ (OWG member: Asia-Pacific Group; Troika w/ China)

¹⁸ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014b; Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations 2014b

- OWG 12
 - Support stand-alone goal
 - Don't see 2020 achievable for some targets
 - 14.4, change deadline from 2020
 - 14.8, add “within national jurisdiction” as provided by Aichi
 - 14.9, change to reduce subsidies
 - 14.11, include “in accordance to international agreements”
- OWG 11
 - Would like to see a stand-alone goal and suggested using the Rio+20 wording: “Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources.”
 - Suggested:
 - Remove 2030 eliminate fishing subsidies
 - Instead of eliminating IUU fishing by 2020, reduce substantially
- OWG 10
 - In absence of an international agreement on MPAs, do not want to include MPAs in the SDGs
 - Working Group already working on BBNJ, should not be included in SDGs
- OWG 9
 - Indonesia, “marine resources, oceans and SIDS should be clustered with ecosystems, biodiversity and forests under the umbrella of “sustainable management of natural ecosystems.”
- OWG 8
 - Identify priorities, including countries benefits to strengthening biodiversity
 - Pollutants caused by shipping and illegal disposals
 - Promotion of marine conservation culture
 - Global warming and the impact on marine fisheries and ocean biodiversity
 - Meet commitments previously made by 2015
 - Enable support on adaptation measures in rural and coastal communities in developing countries
 - International cooperation and communication
 - Balance between management and gain benefits from biodiversity
 - Conservation is imperative
 - Well-being of local people and communities has to be considered
 - Conservation and protection of marine areas
 - Marine conservation areas are important as the source of water supply, food security, and provide support to the ecosystem
 - Promote implementation of regional and international regimes governing oceans and seas
 - Need further discussion on the baseline and measuring the respective element of targets

Contact: Dr. Endah Murniningtyas, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environment of the National Development Planning Agency, Republic of Indonesia

--Zambia²⁰ (For Southern African States; OWG Member: African Group)

- OWG 12
- OWG 11

¹⁹ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014b; IISD 201c; IISD 2014b; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations 2014b; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations 2014c

²⁰ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014c; IISD 2014d; Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations 2014; Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations 2014

- Suggestion:
 - Encourage sustainable small-scale fisheries as new target
- OWG10
 - Goal wording “Promote the conservation and Sustainable use of Marine Resources, Oceans, and Seas”
 - Targets Suggested:
 - Conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources
 - Reducing the rate of desertification and land degradation
 - Promoting sustainable land use management
 - Enhancing protection of oceans, seas, and marine resources
- OWG 8
 - Stated that the importance of oceans, seas and forests cannot be overemphasized
 - Emphasized that means of implementation should be part of a cross-cutting goal on biodiversity issues
 - Focus area on oceans and ecosystems should be stand-alone goals, but could agree to combine them

Contact: H.E. Dr. Mwaba Patricia Kasese-Bota, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN

--Belgium²¹ (Not an OWG Member)

- OWG 12
 - Oceans encompass all three pillars of sustainable development
 - Timing of 14.1 to be 2030
 - Refer to 14.2 and 14.3 in existing commitments
 - 14.7, target is very important
 - 14.8, to ensure congruence with existing agreements, conserve at least 10% through MPAs with reference to connected areas
- OWG 10
 - Strong support of a stand-alone SDG on oceans, seas and fisheries
 - Oceans and seas are critically important to all three dimensions of sustainable development, food security, and poverty eradication
 - Fishing provides employment, helps alleviate poverty, boosts nutritional security, and is essential for economic growth

Contact: H.E. Mrs. Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN

--Greece²² (Not an OWG Member)

- OWG 12
 - 14.5 support reference to aquaculture
 - 14.6 have reference to UNCLOS and legal framework
 - 14.8 include ABNJ
- OWG11
 - Issued strong support of a stand-alone goal on oceans and seas
 - Ocean and marine targets suggested:
 - Inclusion of phrase UNCLOS as the legal framework
 - Addition of aquaculture in small-scale fisheries target

²¹ Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations 2014

²² IISD 2014c; IISD 2014d; Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations 2014b

- Include ABNJ in the MPA target
- OWG10
 - Ocean and marine targets suggested:
 - combat pollution and establish MPAs including BBNJ
 - promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
 - combat overfishing and restore fish stocks
 - welcome full implementation of the UNCLOS

Contact: H.E. Mr. Michel Spinellis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN

--**Monaco**²³ (*Not an OWG Member*)

- OWG 12
 - Submission of amended targets to OWG
 - 14.2 by 2020, sustainably manage, restore and protect marine ecosystems from destruction, including by strengthening their resilience, and support relevant scientific research [add: **to preserve the basic-life sustaining and regulating functions of the ocean for the benefit of mankind**]
 - 14.3 address and prevent further ocean acidification [add: **to ensure ecosystem health and resilience and ensure coastal and ocean resources are safeguarded**]
 - 14.5 support sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, including by providing equitable access of small-scale and artisanal fishers to fisheries and markets [add: **to create job opportunities, enhance social inclusion, and improve human welfare**]
 - 14.6 ensure the full implementation of existing regional and international regimes for managing oceans and seas by their state parties [add: **and improve coordination and cooperation at all levels**]
 - 14.11 implement integrated and participatory coastal management to increase resilience of coastal ecosystems [add: **and communities**]
- OWG 11
 - Halting ocean acidification may not be possible; take preventive measures
 - In support of referring to UNCLOS and the Code of Conduct on sustainable fisheries
 - Noted the importance of sustainable tourism
- OWG 8
 - Supports a stand-alone goal on oceans and seas
 - Rethink the role of oceans from a cross-cutting perspective
 - Need to count on the private sector, civil society, business, and the academic and scientific worlds

Contact: H.E. Ms. Isabelle Picco, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the UN

--**Mauritius** (*Not an OWG Member*) (April 2, 2014)

Contact: H.E. Mr. Milan J.N. Meetarbhan, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UN

--**Seychelles** (*Not an OWG Member*) (April 2, 2014)

²³ IISD 2014c

--Switzerland, France, and Germany²⁴ (*OWG Member: Western European and Others Group*)

- OWG 12
 - Support stand-alone goal
 - 14.1, broader language for land-based pollution, stressed marine litter
 - 14.2, include ocean acidification in reference to Rio+20 language
 - 14.4, bring in line with Aichi target
 - 14.5, prefer marine resources to fishes
 - 14.6, needs to be more general to incorporate more agreements
 - 14.7, keep
 - 14.8, wants exact Aichi wording
 - 14.11, could be indicator
- OWG 11
 - Targets Discussed:
 - Wording of targets needs to be in line with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
 - Needs to be a precise figure for the reduction of marine waste and litter
 - Full implementation of existing regional and international regimes and commitments on oceans and seas, while identifying regulatory gaps
- OWG10
 - Oceans and seas are essential for the post-2015 development agenda and should be considered as goals
 - Targets Discussed:
 - Restoring ecosystems
 - Reducing loss of habitat
 - Preventing deforestation
 - Protecting coral reefs
 - Sustainable fisheries
 - Marine pollution
 - Development of MPAs
 - Reducing OA
- OWG 8
 - Elements to be integrated into SDGs:
 - Improve the health and resilience of oceans by applying the ecosystem approach, reducing sea- and land-based pollution and fighting against the chemical modification of oceans and their acidification, which is also one of the consequences of climate change;
 - Guard coastal populations against rise of the sea-level and coastal erosion by implementing integrated management of coastal zones;
 - Enhance the security of navigation and life at sea by addressing such issues as piracy, terrorism, living conditions on board or gender mainstreaming.
 - Enhance the safety of navigation and thus minimize, as far as possible, the impacts of maritime navigation on ecosystems.
 - Enhance food security, biodiversity and fish stocks by sustainable management of fisheries, including eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries based upon best available scientific data;

²⁴ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations 2014b; Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations 2014; IISD 2014b

- Promote the sustainable management of mineral, extractable and genetic marine resources, and fostering the development of marine renewable energies.
- Supports global approach to conservation & sustainable use of marine resources
- Stress the importance of managing sustainably all human activities in oceans and seas through an ecosystem-based approach, including in the ABNJ and also through ICZM

Contact: H.E. Mr. Michael Gerber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN

--Australia, The Netherlands²⁵ (OWG Member: Western European and Other; Troika w/ United Kingdom Groups)

- OWG 12
 - Merge 14.1 and 14.11
 - Merge 14.6 and 14.9 and remove target date
- OWG 11
 - Called for an integrated land and seascape approach
 - Targets Discussed:
 - Increase economic returns to LDCs and SIDS from SD of coastal and marine resources from within jurisdictions
 - Ensure X% of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved
 - Reduce incidence and impact of pollution
 - Restore overexploited stocks to MSY
 - Eliminate IUU
 - Eliminate fisheries subsidies
 - Increase proportion of fisheries subject to management plans
- OWG 10
 - Targets Discussed:
 - Increase the economic returns to LDCs and SIDS from the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources from within their jurisdictions
 - Ensure that x% of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved
 - Reduce the incidence and impact of pollution on marine ecosystems
 - Restore all overexploited stocks to levels that fall within maximum sustainable economic yield
 - Eliminate IUU fishing
 - Eliminate fishing subsidies that contribute to overfishing
 - Increase proportion of fisheries subject to management plans
- OWG 8
 - Improvement of governance and management of oceans by supporting planning capacities at all levels
 - The post-2015 agenda should complement but not duplicate existing international agreements on these issues; “should integrate natural resource issues across goals and targets (notably food, energy, water), to deliver on its core objective of reducing poverty”
 - Targets Discussed:
 - Achieve healthy fish stocks
 - Prevent IUU fishing, increasing the flow of benefits to developing countries
 - Management plans for marine fisheries
 - Protect critical coastal and ocean habitats

²⁵ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014c; IISD 2014c d; Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations 2014a; Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations 2014b; Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations 2014c

- Selection of scientifically based targets
- Realize the benefits of sustainable development of coastal and marine resources
 - Supporting sustainable tourism activities and capacity building that promotes environmental awareness and conserves the environment
 - Managing and treat waste discharges
 - Promotion of efficient and responsible use of agricultural chemicals
 - Tackling pollution and CO₂ emissions at source
 - Mitigating the risks of non-renewable natural resource extraction and investing wisely
- Landscape management is key to support the inclusive and sustainable growth and development
- Need to improve governance and management of oceans by supporting effective planning at national, regional, and global levels, and building capacity to enforce management plans

Contact: H.E. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN

--European Union^{26,27} (*Not an OWG Member*)

- OWG 12
 - Support stand-alone goal on oceans and seas; not to merge with Goal 15
 - Target 14.6 by 2020
 - Target 14.8 and others, these can be indicator under 14.2
 - 14.7, 14.9 may be discussing same issues
- OWG 11
 - Sustainable management of the oceans provides economic and social benefits
 - Key action needed to ensure healthy oceans:
 - Ecosystem-based approach
 - Precautionary principle
 - Promote sustainable fisheries
 - Challenges include:
 - Marine pollution and litter
 - Acidification and sea level rise
 - Area-based management including MPAs, including in ABNJ
 - Overfishing and overcapacity; IUU fishing; access to fisheries and markets for subsistence and small-scale fishers
 - Potential Target Topics:
 - Protect and restore the health of oceans and maintain marine biodiversity by mitigating the impacts from human activity
 - Ensure sustainable fisheries (healthy fish stocks)
 - Ensure access to fisheries at local, regional, and global levels by subsistence, small-scale fishers
 - Reduce marine pollution and litter including from land-based sources
- OWG 8
 - Underline importance of conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and important global ecosystems such as oceans and seas as a foundation for social and economic development and human well being.
 - UNCLOS provides the framework

²⁶ Permanent Mission of the European Union to the United Nations 2014a; European Commission Communication (2014)

²⁷ The EU is comprised of 28 countries

- Highlighted the creation of wealth and jobs
- Food security and income generation at risk from unsustainable fishing
- Key challenges:
 - Address marine pollution
 - Sustainable fisheries

Contact: H.E. Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Permanent Representative of the European Union to the UN

--Norway, Denmark, and Ireland²⁸ (*OWG Member: Western European and Others Group*)

- OWG 12
 - Troika supports keeping separate goal
 - Must be in line with Aichi targets
 - For the title, “Conserve and make sustainable use of...”
 - Support 14.1, but maybe merge with 14.3
 - 14.2, support, but end after resilience
 - 14.4 merge with 14.7
 - Strongly support 14.6
 - Support 14.8, but include other effective area-based measures
 - Support 14.9, but doesn’t understand what second half means in this context
 - Increase food security through aquaculture and reduce fish harvest loss
- OWG 11
 - Suggested Targets
 - In support of targets on marine ecosystems, IUU fishing, fishing subsidies, and restoring fish stocks
 - Reference to sustainable aquaculture
 - Still unsure how to reflect oceans and seas at the goal level
- OWG10
 - Targets Suggested:
 - Implementation of regional and international regimes governing oceans and seas
 - Sustainable management of marine resources
 - Marine pollution and debris
 - Destruction of marine habitat including by acidification
 - Combating IUU and destructive fishing practices
- OWG 9
 - Text on marine resources, oceans and seas provides a good basis for further discussion
- OWG 8
 - UNCLOS provides the legal framework for conservation and sustainable use of oceans
 - Stressed that IUU fishing must come to an end

Contact: H.E. Geir O. Pedersen, Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN

--Cabo Verde²⁹ (*Not and OWG Member*)

- OWG10
 - Targets discussed:
 - Establish and consolidate MPAs

²⁸ IISD 2014a; IISD 2014c; IISD 2014d; Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations 2014a; ; Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations 2014b

²⁹ IISD 2014c

- End destruction of marine habitats
- Eliminate IUU fishing
- end deforestation and land degradation and achieve a land degradation neutral world by 2030
- boost capacities in scientific research
- promote inclusive partnerships for technology transfer

Contact: H.E. Mr. Fernando Jorge Wahnnon Ferreira, Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde to the United Nations

--Ghana³⁰ (*OWG Member: African Group*)

- OWG 12
 - Came out in support of stand-alone goal for oceans and seas during Tuesday evening/Wednesday morning session
- OWG 8
 - Spoke on behalf of the West African States
 - Poverty eradication, economic growth, food security, agriculture, water and climate change are linked to all the issues under discuss

Contact: Mrs. Charlotte Djan, Third Committee Schedule Officer, Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations

--Saudi Arabia (*OWG Member: Asia-Pacific Group*)

- OWG 12
 - Came out in support of a stand-alone goal for oceans and seas
 - 14.3 ocean acidification needs to be addressed in a sustainable manner
 - Worried about impeding development for coastal villages
 - Need to have reference to economic and social development

Contact: H.E. Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

³⁰ IISD 2014a

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