

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
50th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and  
Technological Advice (SBSTA)  
Bonn, Germany, 17– 28 June 2019**

**UN-Oceans statement at the SBSTA Opening (17 June)**

Delivered by Ms. Valentina Germani, Legal Officer  
(Programme Advisor), on behalf of Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares,  
United Nations Legal Counsel, and UN-Oceans Focal Point

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the twenty-nine  
members of UN-Oceans.<sup>1</sup>

A year has passed since our previous statement to SBSTTA-48  
and the severity of the impacts of global warming and sea level  
rise on oceans and coastal areas and the inextricable nexus  
between oceans and climate change have only become more  
evident, as highlighted in the IPCC's Special Report on Global  
Warming of 1.5°C.

We will surely learn more from the IPCC's special report on  
climate change and oceans and the cryosphere, later this year,

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<sup>1</sup> UN-Oceans is an inter-agency mechanism on oceans and coastal issues that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority, in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Currently there are twenty-two participating organizations in UN-Oceans.

and the second world ocean assessment in 2020. The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, starting in 2021, will also provide an important platform to increase our knowledge, inform our policy and identify effective solutions.

The UN General Assembly has, since 2006, encouraged States to enhance scientific activity on the impacts of climate change on oceans as well as ocean acidification, including through enhanced international cooperation and capacity-building to support research activities. Moreover, its subsidiary body, the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, in 2017 discussed in depth the effects of climate change on oceans. Last week, the Process focused its discussions on “Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development” and, in that context, underlined the need to significantly enhance ocean science in the context of climate change.

As consistently recognized by the General Assembly, international cooperation and coordination, including concerted and immediate action, is essential and needs to be enhanced to combat the effects of climate change on the oceans, particularly in view of the grave implications for countries with low-lying coasts, some of whose very existence is under threat.

To this end, in 2018 UN-Oceans was pleased to welcome the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in its ranks. We look forward to a mutually supportive cooperation.

Distinguished participants,

UN-Oceans wishes you success in your deliberations.