



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-ninth session**

Agenda item 2

**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific on 19 May 2023****79/2. Regional cooperation to accelerate climate action on oceans in Asia
and the Pacific for sustainable development**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 77/165 of 14 December 2022 on the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind, in which the Assembly recalled the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹ and the Paris Agreement,² acknowledged that they are the primary international, intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressed determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognized that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noted with concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges, in particular their nationally determined contributions, as appropriate, and aggregate emission pathways, and in which the Assembly also recalled the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, and in which the Assembly urged Member States to adopt a climate- and environment-responsive approach to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery efforts in order to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery and accelerate a transition to low-emission, climate-resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 71/312 of 6 July 2017 and 76/296 of 21 July 2022, in which the Assembly endorsed the declarations adopted by the first and second United Nations Conferences to Support the

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

² See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, respectively,

Recalling further its resolution 76/1 of 21 May 2020 on strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030, and its mission, which includes to generate and use knowledge for the transformational action needed to achieve a healthy, safe and resilient ocean for sustainable development by 2030 and beyond,³ and recalling also the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁴ and its mission to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030,

Taking note with concern of the findings contained in the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in particular the Sixth Assessment Report and the special reports entitled *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and *Global Warming of 1.5°C*,

Acknowledging the particular vulnerabilities of low-lying coastal countries and small island developing States,

1. *Acknowledges* that the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and the exacerbating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic affect the poorest and most vulnerable countries and present a threat to sustainable development, notably by curbing progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Also acknowledges* the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans and the cryosphere, and of protecting and conserving biodiversity when taking action to address climate change, and encourages its members and associate members to consider, as appropriate, the inclusion of ocean-based actions in national climate goals;

3. *Further acknowledges* the importance of conserving, restoring, preserving and sustainably using marine and coastal resources and of ecosystem-based approaches that enable oceans to function optimally, including in regulating the global climate;

4. *Acknowledges* the adverse impacts that climate change has on the ocean’s health, resources, sustainability, integrity and effectiveness as a carbon sink in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to climate change;

5. *Also acknowledges* that climate change is a driver of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and that efforts aimed at the conservation, restoration, preservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and mitigation and promote economic growth, food and nutrition security, particularly in archipelagic and small island developing States;

³ See General Assembly resolution 76/296, annex.

⁴ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decision 15/4, annex.

6. *Recognizes* the role of reinvigorated multilateralism and international cooperation in addressing climate change and promoting ocean-based action and partnerships in the context of sustainable development with a view to accelerating climate action;

7. *Acknowledges* that restoring harmony with nature through a healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient ocean is critical for our planet, our lives and our future, and calls upon all stakeholders to urgently take ambitious and concerted action to accelerate implementation to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 as soon as possible without undue delay, with a view to accelerating climate action;

8. *Encourages* its members and associate members to accelerate ocean-based action in Asia and the Pacific, as appropriate, with a view to accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate action) and Goal 14 (Life below water) and conserving and sustainably using the world's oceans, seas and all marine and coastal resources, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and other specialized entities by:

(a) Promoting capacity-building, innovation and technology development and transfer, on mutually agreed terms, among members and associate members with regard to ocean-based action to combat climate change through the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices by utilizing existing international and regional institutions, forums and platforms;

(b) Promoting the importance of systems thinking and science-based decision-making and policy development and implementation at all levels based on data and information collection, as appropriate, at regular intervals for monitoring progress on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 14 to achieve more sustainable, inclusive and resilient ocean-based action to combat climate change;

(c) Strengthening joint cooperation, technical assistance and resource mobilization for sustainable ocean-based action to combat climate change in Asia and the Pacific, as appropriate, with a view to highlighting the role of oceans in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to climate change;

(d) Promoting international cooperative measures, as appropriate and relevant, to support and work towards the prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution in the marine environment, as it relates to climate risk reduction and mitigation;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To convene a dialogue on accelerating ocean-based action to combat climate change to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and to hold the dialogue, as part of the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, prior to the 2025 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;

(b) To report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its eighty-first session on the progress made in implementing the present resolution.

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*