





and with due consideration for the need to protect the environment and biodiversity.

The best way to achieve this is to work towards the effective implementation of the legal framework for the oceans, with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at its core. In fact it is a pivotal condition to deliver against the 2030 Agenda and in particular in relation to the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

It is with this in mind that through the activities undertaken by our Community, we have explored different yet related pathways to improve the implementation of the Convention and related instruments.

One area of focus has been addressing gaps relating to the lack of participation of many developing States in decision-making processes and in operational activities, such as marine scientific research. Moreover, the full and effective implementation of the Convention requires the promulgation and implementation of national legislation, rules, regulations and policy, which can pose a challenge to developing States, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

We have discussed different responses to address such challenges, including establishing trust funds, facilitating capacity building, and providing technical assistance.





A third area requiring due consideration relates to the importance of strengthening ocean governance through enhanced cooperation and coordination. To that end, it is imperative to identify new partners





governance. These efforts are more than ever needed now, in light of the ongoing disruption of many ocean-related initiatives caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to build back better.

In the lead-up to the postponed 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference, we wish to confirm our determination to continue to promote the effective implementation of international law as reflected in the Convention, on the basis of which it will be possible to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources for sustainable development.

Thank you.

