



Permanent Mission of the
International Union for Conservation of Nature
to the United Nations

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2025
“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises”

SDG14 thematic review

Statement delivered by the Permanent Observer of IUCN to the UN, Dr Sofie Jaffe

New York, 14 July 2025

Excellencies, distinguished delegates

The International Union for Conservation of Nature would like to congratulate the co-host of France and Costa Rica for the organisation of a successful third UN Ocean Conference. The unprecedented attendance by 66 Head of States and over 130,000 people in the Green Zone is a testament to the deep connection that each one of us feels to our one global ocean.

UNOC3 was proof that multilateralism is delivering results. In Nice, the international community made significant steps towards the entry into force of two landmark agreements: BBNJ and the WTO Agreement on Fisheries subsidies.

The Ocean urgently need global leaders to accelerate action – this is why IUCN calls on Member States to join the High Ambition Coalition for the BBNJ Agreement. This platform for visionary leaders is essential in maintaining momentum and in creating a peaceful collaborative space to share experiences and seek support for future proposal in the BBNJ framework.

IUCN would also like to reiterate the call for the ratification and implementation of the BBNJ and to raise awareness about the Technical Assistance Facility under the European Union's Global Ocean Programme. This mechanism is designed to help partner countries ratify or accede to the BBNJ Agreement, prepare for its implementation and access expert ocean science and policy advice through targeted support.

With regards to the WTO agreement, this historic step must be seen in a wider context of a structural reform of our economy. A new nature positive economic model will necessarily build on a sustainable blue economy, one that enhances ocean health, empowers communities, spearheads transformation, and delivers long-term economic resilience.

Finally, in an increasingly polarised world, where disinformation and false narratives dominate our daily lives, we must come together to ensure that scientific truths are upheld. In this regard it is essential that we accelerate steps to establish an International Platform on Ocean Sustainability.

Thank you
