



## **PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

### **United Nations Member States**

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#### **Statement of Ms. Margo Debye Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Nauru to the United Nations On behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States**

#### **At the Conclusion of the First Informal Meeting On the Call for Action for the UN Oceans Conference**

**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Co-facilitators,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States. At the outset, we associate with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, [and with the statement delivered by Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.]

Co-facilitators,

2. We thank you for your remarks as we conclude this round of informal negotiations on the draft Call for Action. We were heartened by the tenor of our conversation this week. This zero-draft text was already concise and actionable, and we are confident that it will be further improved in advance of our next round of negotiations in April.

Co-facilitators,

3. PSIDS have long championed the importance of oceans to our sustainable development, arguing for their prominence in the outcomes of Rio+20, the SIDS Conference in Samoa, and as a stand-alone goal in the 2030 Agenda.
4. This Call for Action builds on the firm foundations of our 2030 Agenda, and takes our commitments forward by supporting the full implementation of SDG-14. However, as we negotiate this Call for Action, we stress that it must not re-open the delicate balance that we struck, over the course of multiple years, in the 2030 Agenda. To do so would take a step backwards at a time we can ill afford it.
5. As always, our success will be determined by our ability to mobilize adequate the means of implementation. Calls in the zero-draft to increase financial support in

the sustainable development of ocean-related activities in developing countries are among the most important elements of the text, and we will hope to see them retained and further strengthened in coming weeks.

Co-facilitators,

6. We thank you for your steady hand throughout the course of this process thus far. We know that time is short before the mandated conclusion of our negotiations, but would like to express our full confidence that, with your facilitation, we will reach a successful end.

I thank you, co-facilitators.