

UN HLPF July 7, 2022 3-6 pm SDG 14

THE NGO MAJOR GROUP, INTERVENTION by Dr. Catherine Tinker, representing the Tinker Institute on International Law and Organizations, on behalf of the NGO Major Group.

STATEMENT:

Moderator, excellencies, colleagues,

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, nearly 75 years ago, failed to set any limits on our use of natural resources to ensure that we remain within the biophysical limits of our environment. We have now been in global ecological overshoot for over fifty years, passed six planetary boundaries, and reached the exponential phase of ecological collapse. The new human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, finally recognised last year, requires healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, a core focus of SDG14.

National marine protection plans [are needed] to meet the proposed target of protecting or conserving 30 percent of the ocean by 2030 to reduce negative impacts and stem the tide of climate change.

Environmental policy must focus on precautionary solutions, such as effective regulation and taxation of unsustainable practices.

Structural obstacles include the need to mobilize financial resources and strengthen the ability of governments to coordinate and act as a catalyst for protection, conservation and sustainable use of the oceans.

SDG14 requires the integration of global and national governance frameworks, policies, and monitoring AND ACTION on BBNJ, the Global BD Framework, and COP-27 of the UNFCCC.

Civil society can play an active role in achieving this SDG through education and outreach, informing international processes, frameworks, and implementation, and supporting corporate reform.

There must be capacity-sharing activities for local people so that they understand and become part of the decision-making processes taken at higher levels. This may include promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration for resilience in coastal communities; taking part in monitoring, reporting, assessing, and capacity building; and advocating for solutions to human activities impacting ocean and coastal ecosystems.