

Ocean Deal: Progress Report 2022

Berlin, 15 December 2022

At the G7 Leaders' Summit in Elmau in June 2022, the G7 under the German presidency adopted the [Ocean Deal](#), a **strong statement of political commitments** which supports urgently needed ocean action, raises ambition and helps to build consensus for ongoing international negotiations on ocean governance. **Protecting marine biodiversity, preserving environmental standards and fighting pollution form the Ocean Deal's main pillars.**

The adoption of the G7 Ocean Deal demonstrates the **significant progress achieved since 2015** in international processes. It also illustrates **the consistent commitment of the G7 members** to the paths outlined in their [2015 Leaders' Declaration](#) in the areas of marine litter, deep-sea mining and conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). As pledged in the [2022 Leaders' Communiqué](#), this report gives an **overview of the general direction of progress** in the six months since the Ocean Deal's adoption.

In August 2022, the latest round of negotiations towards an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to ensure the effective conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ **achieved substantial progress on all dimensions of the agreement**. Although it was not possible to conclude the negotiations, it was decided to suspend the session, which will resume in February 2023. G7 members will continue their constructive engagement within the negotiations and **work with a view to concluding an ambitious, effective, fair, balanced and future-proofed international legally binding BBNJ agreement** on that occasion.

At its 41st annual **meeting, CCAMLR** (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) **agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting on Spatial Planning and Marine Protected Areas** (MPAs) in Chile in the first half of 2023. CCAMLR also agreed to measures to **reduce marine pollution from fishing vessels** in the Convention area and **approved a resolution** stressing the importance of **urgent action on climate change in Antarctica**. The G7 members that are Parties to CCAMLR have continued their strong support for the commitment by CCAMLR to establish a representative system of MPAs in the waters around Antarctica, including in East Antarctica, the Weddell Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula region.

In line with its agreement to take a precautionary approach to potential mining of marine minerals in the Area, G7 members have actively engaged with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in the development of a regulatory framework for exploitation of deep seabed minerals to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from the harmful effect of potential activities in the Area. This includes **the development of robust regulations based on effective and binding environmental standards, including science-based threshold values**. G7 members are contributing to robust scientific research on the deep sea marine environment and on the risk and potential impacts of deep sea mining, as they understand the **effective protection of the marine environment can only be achieved with sufficient understanding of the environmental impacts of seabed mining**. G7 members reiterate that knowledge demonstrating the environment will not be seriously harmed is critical for considering their consent for future mining permits in the ISA council.

In December 2022, G7 members will **engage in negotiations for a new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the CBD-COP15** in Montreal, supporting an action target to **conserve or protect at least 30% globally of sea areas by 2030** through ecologically representative, well-connected networks of effectively and equitably managed protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), including coastal and marine ecosystems. All G7 members **call for an ambitious and effective outcome to the CBD-COP15 negotiations** and underline its importance for a healthy, sustainably managed ocean.

In June 2022, G7 members took part in the first annual “Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue” under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). G7 members welcome the UNFCCC COP27 decision to encourage Parties to consider, as appropriate, **ocean-based action in their national climate goals** and in the implementation of these goals, including but not limited to nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies and adaptation communications, and that, from 2023, **future ocean and climate change dialogues will be facilitated to focus on specific topics**.

At the **UN Ocean Conference, held** in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022, G7 members made a **range of important voluntary commitments** to support the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. G7 members **reiterated their commitment to advance the collective work on ocean science towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**, in particular to enhance cooperation at the global, regional, sub-regional, national and local levels through strengthening mechanisms for collaboration, knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices in marine scientific research. To this end, the **G7 Future of the Seas and Oceans Initiative**

(FSOI) Working Group met on 29-30 November 2022 and discussed key areas of interest and potential cooperation, including new frontiers in ocean observation and advancing a digital twin of the ocean. This exchange built on the May 2022 International Digital Twin of the Ocean Summit, hosted by UK with support from the G7 FSOI and the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel.

G7 members are also contributing to national and international efforts to conserve, protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems. As part of the G7 Environmental Working Group, the German presidency hosted a **workshop on nature-based solutions (NbS)** on 20 October 2022 at which participants discussed and **shared best practices on NbS implementation** in order to scale up action, create synergies and incentivise increased cooperation. A **special focus was placed on marine and coastal NbS**. A [Chair's Summary](#) of the workshop outcomes was released on 14 December.

From 28 November to 2 December, **G7 members participated in the first of five rounds of negotiations** of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1), confirming their **commitment to end plastic pollution** worldwide by developing an international legally binding instrument that will tackle plastic pollution. On 6 December, as part of the G7 Environmental Working Group, the German presidency hosted a **workshop to discuss domestic approaches and best practice measures to combat marine litter and plastic pollution**. During the workshop, G7 members discussed the importance of not preempting or duplicating processes and of sharing best practice measures to end plastic pollution, including those that target single-use items and plastics containing harmful substances, such as through multi-use deposit return schemes, increased recycling and measures on microplastics. G7 members also **saw benefit in informational exchanges on adequate litter monitoring and on cost internalization** by means such as market-based instruments, e.g. taxes or incentives, eco-modulated fees and extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes. G7 members noted the relationship between the work of the G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency and reducing marine litter and plastic pollution, including with respect to abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). In that forum among others, G7 members could share information on activities that address ALDFG such as design standards or best practices, EPR schemes, and a framework for collection, as set out in the OECD report "*Towards G7 action to combat ghost fishing gear*". In this context, G7 members noted their engagement in the discussions on fishing gear marking and reporting of loss or discharge of fishing gear within the International Maritime Organization, also in view of the upcoming 79th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).

In September 2022, G7 members participated in the 35th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and **reaffirmed their Ocean Deal commitment to ending illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing** through strengthened international and multilateral cooperation, such as promoting global ratification and implementation of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures. G7 members welcome COFI's **proposal to establish a Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management and its endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment as a new instrument** within the framework of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. It is a **step towards our commitment to increase traceability, transparency, and compliance** in order to end IUU fishing.

The G7 consider the **conclusion of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) of the World Trade Organization (WTO)** as a major step forward for ocean sustainability. G7 members commit to swiftly complete their domestic procedures to accept the Agreement and to engage in constructive negotiations on additional provisions on overcapacity and overfishing with a view to making recommendations by the next WTO Ministerial Conference. The G7 welcomes the willingness expressed by some G7 members to contribute to the fisheries funding mechanism trust fund at the WTO to help developing countries to implement the agreement.