

**Statement to be delivered in the first informal consultations on the
declaration for the 2020 United Nations Conference to support
the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14**

Turkey would like to thank the co-facilitators for their work in overseeing the preparatory process and the intergovernmental consultations on the declaration for the 2020 United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 is a milestone in our collective commitment to protect our environment. It provides us with a bold map to guide our policy and action in conservation, development, sustainable use and effective management of oceans, seas and marine resources. Turkey has taken every effort to improve its policy framework to effectively implement the SDG14-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. We have integrated these targets into a wide range of policy documents including the National Development Plan, the Climate Change Strategy and the Marine Research Strategy Document. We have also put in effect important legislative measures to protect marine ecosystems and to prevent pollution and waste.

The 2020 United Nations Conference will provide the international community with another invaluable opportunity to continue our dialogue and enhance international cooperation as regards the implementation of SDG 14. Turkey is ready to contribute to this Conference, starting with the process of finalizing the draft declaration.

With regard to Paragraph 7 of the draft declaration, concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Turkey considers it crucial that previously agreed language in this regard is preserved and respected. Both Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Target 14.C) and the declaration entitled “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action” adopted in 2017, refer to UNCLOS as providing “*the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources*”. The declaration for the upcoming conference, which aims to support the