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climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise. We are concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are experiencing the impacts of climate change and are already experiencing persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea level rise, ocean acidification, further threatening food security and sustainable development. In this regard, they emphasize that climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

Member States recognized that oceans, seas and coastal areas are an integral component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical to the well-being and importance of the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources for sustainable development, including the eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and

realizing their social, economic and environmental benefits, as well as facilitating technical collaboration and voluntary information sharing. [Paragraph 176]

Member States noted that sea level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including for some through the loss of territory. [Paragraph 178]

In “*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” which was adopted in September 2015, Member States recognized that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet’s natural resources. They expressed determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, and committed to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, as well as to conserve and sustainably use the oceans and seas and marine resources for sustainable development. These commitments are reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 13 and 14 and their associated targets including target 13.1 “Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries”, and target 14.3 “Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels”.

*The Paris Agreement* has articulated the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans and the protection of biodiversity

To support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 70/226 and 70/303, in which Member States decided to convene the high level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day. The Governments of Fiji and Sweden will host the Conference. The overarching theme of the Conference will be “Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”.

The Conference will be a great opportunity for Member States and all relevant stakeholders to identify ways and means to support the implementation of SDG 14, build on existing successful partnerships and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships to advance the implementation of Goal 14, including those relating to address the challenges and effects of climate change on the oceans, and foster climate resilient sustainable development of oceans and seas.

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