

Statement on behalf of Finland  
for the preparatory meeting, 4-5 February 2020  
Elements for the declaration

Honorable Co-Chairs,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the EU

We would welcome a declaration calling for development and testing of concrete new measures on land and at sea to reduce pollution and to decrease the impact of human activities on the ecosystem. In Finland, the government has in recent years invested millions of euros in innovation and piloting of new methods to reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture and waste water treatment plants. As a result of scientific research and pilot studies, we now for the first time we have methods available for drastically reducing phosphorus input from agriculture. Currently, we are expanding the innovation and testing support to management of potentially harmful run-off from cities and to potentially risky wrecks in the sea bed.

We consider it important that the declaration highlights the need for data availability, data sharing through open data and science and research that supports assessment of various types of pressures on the ecosystem stemming from human activities, as well as assessment of their cumulative impacts on the ecosystem. This helps in identifying areas in the greatest need of action. Increasing our understanding of the risks to the marine environment is a priority for Finland. We will continue to support the development of the declaration and the implementation of the measures it contains.