I NFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE I NTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED DECLARATION OF THE UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the G-77 and China.

At the outset, Brazil would like to thank you, Ambassador Ngedikes Olai Uludong and Ambassador Martin Bille Hermann, for your excellent work in this process. We commend you for presenting to Members States a good starting point for a brief and concise intergovernmentally agreed declaration, in line with resolution 73/292.

As a general principle for our work on this zero draft, Brazil believes that all elements of the declaration should be based on multilaterally agreed language, in order to avoid misunderstandings and counterproductive discussions in this preparatory process. Given that the main objective of the Conference is to support the implementation of SDG14, we should guide ourselves by the conceptual framework provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate states that there is

strategies (e.g. restoration of vegetated coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrass meadows) as a way of providing climate change mitigation.

In paragraph 4, Brazil requests the deletion of the reference of setting new targets for SDG14, as this would exceed the mandate of the Conference, interfere in the follow-up process of the 2030 Agenda and hamper the mandate of the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development.

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

Brazil believes that the declaration should be more action-oriented. Thus, strengthening the language related to capacity building and transfer of marine technology will be of paramount importance, as concrete solutions for the achievement of SDG 14 will depend mainly on the availability of its means of implementation. This includes enhancing international cooperation, technical assistance and access to research infrastructure, as well as the transfer of marine technologies.

In particular, the declaration should expressly reflect the need of addressing the gaps in knowledge and capacity-building identified in the World Oceans Assessment through the development of new financial solutions to support marine scientific research and ocean observing systems. Such solutions could support important national and multilateral initiatives, such as, for example, IOC-

System, a global network that collects real time data

on the state of the ocean.

We would like to express our strong support for paragraph 7, which reaffirms the centrality of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea as the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. In this context, we also support the language of paragraph 8 on the importance of the work undertaken to conclude the BBNU Agreement.

Finally, Brazil would like to reiterate its support for highlighting the interlinkages between SDG 14 and other Goals, including SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns).

It is of paramount importance to recognize that the sustainable management of fisheries is key in ensuring food and nutricional security. In this vein, prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminating subsidies that contribute to IUU fish, and concluding negotiations to adopt an agreement on fisheries subsidies at the World Trade Organization (target 14.6) are fundamental measures that should be duly reflected in the declaration.

Brazil will remain supportive of this process and looks forward to continue contributing constructively to the informal consultations on the draft declaration.

I thank you.