



**(7th meeting) High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2017)  
- Economic and Social Council, 2017 session  
Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 14\* - oceans, sea and marine resources  
(11am-1pm) - Q&A  
Hema Wihongi (Nga Kaiawhina o Wai262) Intervention**

SDG 14 Oceans statement

In the urgency to achieve SDG 14, women's voices must be prioritized at both the UNCLOS- and WTO-levels, including negotiating fisheries and trade subsidies at the regional to local financial institutions.

This empowers women to equitably share in economic benefits from the oceans they protect without acknowledgement or remuneration (target 5.4). Today, nearly 90 percent of global marine flora and fauna are in a critical condition.

Meanwhile, the OECD forecasts a 17 percent rise in fish production by 2025, in part to meet the unsustainable over-consumption of fish in developed countries.

At the same time, extractive industries are being moved in the Clarion Clipperton zone to begin unfeasible, experimental seabed mining. This, at a time when it is clear that we must quickly move away from further exploitation of the Ocean, whose cries go unheeded or unheard. In this alone, the urgency of this agenda is undeniable. women human rights defenders are by definition climate mitigators by working to strengthen sustainability and resiliency of fisheries.

Sustainability of seas requires productive inclusion of women in peace processes.

States' commitment to due process of law can protect women from aggressive manufacturers, extractors, developers or those who contaminate water with chemical, radioactive,(3 Ps) plastic, POP, or PCP discharges, that are poisoning women's reproductive health systems and future generations

Women's leadership must be prioritized in local, national, regional, and global discussions [and decision making structures](#) directing sustainable uses of ocean systems.

Equitable political participation is needed in determining sustainable uses of Seas and life below water.

Thank You.