

## **Tale til OSPAR ministermøde d. 26. juni – Vigo, Spanien**

Thank you Mrs. Chair,

I will start by thanking Mrs Sara Aagesen Muñoz for inviting us all for this important ministerial meeting of the OSPAR Convention.

I would also like to thank the chair of OSPAR Mrs. Ane-Marie Eskildsen and the OSPAR secretariat for all the work done leading up to this ministerial meeting.

It is a great pleasure for me to be representing the Kingdom of Denmark here today at the fifth ministerial meeting in the OSPAR convention for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic – one of the leading organizations on collaboration regarding the protection of our ocean from loss of biodiversity, climate change and pollution.

Protecting the marine environment against these challenges is a key priority for The Kingdom of Denmark.

The North-East Atlantic Environment strategy 2030 sets out OSPAR's objectives to tackle these challenges.

I want to commend OSPAR on the progress made so far, and highlight the importance of ensuring that the strategy continues to

efficiently work towards its purpose of guiding us all in improving the status of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

The third UN Ocean Conference in Nice earlier this month brought attention again to the need for both more marine protected areas, a precautionary pause on deep-sea mining, the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to move forward with an ambitious global plastics treaty.

Not least several countries ratified the BBNJ-agreement in Nice – including the Kingdom of Denmark.

As the upcoming EU presidency Denmark would like to take this opportunity to encourage other EU member states to ratify the BBNJ Treaty so that we can ensure it enters into force as soon as possible.

Thank you.