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## **The UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 and Youth Engagement**

The Sustainable Development Goals, set by the United Nations in 2015, address the global challenges facing humanity today. One of them is a Goal 14, which is referred to as «Life Below Water». This goal aims to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. But why is it so important to protect our oceans? Let’s try to break this down.

Firstly, the world’s oceans are considered to be the largest ecosystem in the world. Oceans and seas have the power to affect crucial aspects of our lives, such as weather, climate, fresh water, food, and so on. We simply can not survive without marine ecosystems. Secondly, the world’s oceans are already at risk. The main threats they face are associated with acidification, oil spills, overfishing, habitat destruction, and plastic pollution.

Based on these two points, there is a need for careful management of marine resources. We can ensure future generations a prosperous future only through taking action now. Therefore, another important goal is to engage youth to conserve marine environments, so they can continue working towards achieving the SDG 14. Youth nowadays should have the opportunity to learn about the current threats facing the oceans. More young people should be provided a chance to participate in Marine Conservation workshops, forums, and summits. Personally, this is the reason why I consider the topic of the 10<sup>th</sup> Korea-Russia Youth Dialogue to be of great importance.

South Korea has water borders on three sides – the Yellow Sea to the west, the Korea strait on the southeast, and the East Sea to the east and northeast. Russia has shores on 13 seas, 12 belonging to three oceans: the Arctic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. In my opinion, having the youth from these two countries come together

and work on solutions for marine conservation will have the positive impact and contribute towards the SDGs 14 and 17.