



Peace for the Ocean Declaration

We, the undersigning ministers and high-level government representatives, members of civil society, the academic and scientific communities and other interested stakeholders gathered in San José, Costa Rica, on June 7-8, 2024, at the High-Level Event on Ocean Action: Immersed in Change;

Underscoring the crucial role of the global ocean, which we recognize from an environmental point of view, as one single interconnected body of water, which unites, sustains and connects ecosystems, people, communities and countries;

Reaffirming our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and welcoming active participation in the Third United Nations Ocean Conference, to be held in Nice, France, in June 2025;

Supporting the proclamation made by the United Nations General Assembly on the Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (Ocean Decade) and its impact on global mobilization to promote research and technological innovation;

Having adopted General Assembly Resolution 76/300 that recognizes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right;

Acknowledging the ocean as essential for the survival of people and nature and also acknowledging that a healthy ocean is instrumental for humans and ecosystems to thrive;

Recognizing the link between ocean and climate, deeply concerned at the current and projected adverse effects of climate change on the marine environment and biodiversity, and emphasizing the urgency of addressing them;





Convinced of the urgency of changing the human relationship with the ocean through understanding the connection between human activities and ocean health and promoting effective transformation towards a sustainable blue economy and nature-based solutions, and/or ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches;

Reiterating our commitment to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity globally and to support efforts to stop the decline in the health of the ocean's ecosystems and to conserve, protect, connect and restore nature, which will lead to healthy ecosystems, people and economies;

We are committed to scaling up transformative ocean actions, to support nature positive economies based on the best available science and scientific information, traditional knowledge and innovation, in line with the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based approaches, for the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goal 14 as a declaration of peace for the ocean, through the following Ocean Actions:

- Accelerate climate action through the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and relevant decisions of the conferences of the Parties, to those agreements in particular concerning the link between the ocean and climate;
- Support the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity, and mobilize resources, particularly those related to the protection and preservation of the marine environment.
- Work towards the swift entry into force and effective implementation of the "Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction", including through the signature and ratification of the agreement.





- Promote the prompt entry into force of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, by encouraging WTO Members to deposit their instruments of acceptance with the WTO.
- Support the successful completion in 2024 of an ambitious legally binding agreement on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, consistent with UNEA-Resolution 5/14.
- Actively participate in the negotiations at the International Seabed Authority for the development of rules, regulations and procedures, guided by the precautionary principle or precautionary approach, with the understanding that exploitation will not start in the absence of rules, regulations and procedures, and the necessary scientific information, to allow understanding of the environmental impact, to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such activities, in line with art. 145 of UNCLOS.
- Support and promote efforts to strengthen the ocean science-policy interface, including through action under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science and the Regular Process, by promoting research, collaboration, and the communication of scientific knowledge to policymakers, private-sector actors and civil society to generate and share environmental, biological, and ecological scientific information for decision-making, particularly on the deep sea.
- Deploy the means of implementation and mobilization of financial and technical resources that allow international cooperation for the exchange of knowledge and best practices, capacity building, and the access to and exchange of technology, where mutually agreed, necessary for the effective conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, especially by coastal communities.





- Promote and significantly increase the establishment of national, regional, and high seas networks of marine protected areas, marine reserves and other effective area-based conservation measures that contribute to the global goal of protection or conservation of at least 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030 -supported by national action plans-; and strive, through additional complementary actions, to achieve a healthy and productive ocean by 2050.
- Take the necessary ocean management actions to conserve, protect, restore, and replenish fish stocks, threatened species, habitats, and ecosystems, and to support the long-term potential of the ocean to safeguard jobs, food, and nutrition for current and future generations.
- Establish national and regional sustainable blue economy strategies by 2030, to strengthen synergies between major economic sectors such as tourism, aquaculture, fisheries, and maritime transport, among others, and support international platforms for collaboration on research and supporting sustainable blue economy projects as applicable.
- Accelerate actions to establish sound management strategies to take all appropriate measures for the prevention, reduction, and control of land-based sources of pollution.

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