

Joint statement stemming from the side event: Localizing the 2030 Agenda for Ocean Sustainability and a Thriving Blue Economy,

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The health of our oceans is inextricably linked to the well-being of our communities, economies, and planet. As we approach the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, it is increasingly clear that achieving the sustainability of the ocean and its resources requires not only global commitments but also deeply rooted local action. Localization—the process of translating global goals into local realities—is not a complementary strategy; it is a fundamental pathway to success.

Localizing the 2030 Agenda requires a holistic, integrated approach that aligns global goals with local priorities, capacities, and identities. This means empowering local actors—governments, communities, civil society, and businesses—to co-create solutions that are context-specific, inclusive, and transformative. It involves strengthening local governance, fostering multistakeholder collaboration, and ensuring that data, financing, and policy frameworks are accessible and responsive at the territorial level. By anchoring sustainable development in local realities, we accelerate progress on SDG 14 and build resilient communities better equipped to protect marine ecosystems, promote sustainable blue economies, and uphold principles of equity and intergenerational justice.

The Local2030 Hubs represent a transformative model for this approach. Acting as a key mechanism contributing to the governance of the United Nations Local2030 Coalition, the United Nations platform for SDG Localization, these hubs, embedded in diverse territories across the globe, serve as platforms for multilevel governance, cross-sectoral collaboration, and community-driven innovation, demonstrating how place-based leadership can drive systemic change at the global level.

Bermeo Tuna World Capital (BTWC), in the Basque Country, plays a pivotal role in global tuna sustainability by promoting responsible practices across the tuna value chain and representing 10% of the world's tuna catch quotas through its leadership in sustainable fisheries. This leadership is further articulated in the International Declaration for Tuna Sustainability promoted by BTWC, a landmark multi-stakeholder agreement that establishes guiding principles and shared commitments for ensuring the long-term viability of tuna resources while safeguarding marine biodiversity, local livelihoods, and food security. By aligning with the 2030 Agenda and reinforcing SDG 14, this declaration exemplifies how locally led frameworks can scale global impact through collaboration, transparency, and science-based management.

In Paraná, academic and governmental actors collaborate through the Paraná 2030 Hub to advance ocean science, clean ocean networks, and state-level commitments to marine sustainability. The City of Shizuoka is implementing a joint ten-year project in collaboration with the prefectural government, the MaOI Institute, and universities and companies called the “Suruga Bay Marine DX Advanced Hub Initiative.” This initiative will create a sustainable and cutting-edge Blue Economy hub through the training of marine DX talent, R&D, and its commercialization. In Hawai’i, the Green Growth Hub and the Local2030 Islands Network are pioneering regenerative tourism and circular blue economy models that respect cultural heritage and ecological limits.

These localization efforts are not isolated; they are part of a growing global ecosystem of innovation and systemic transformation to put sustainable development at the heart of societies and territories.

Together, these hubs form a living laboratory of solutions—tailored to local contexts yet united by shared principles. They embody the essence of SDG 17: partnerships for the goals. By fostering dialogue across sectors and borders, they enable co-creation of knowledge, scaling of best practices, and mobilization of resources for ocean action.

As we gather at the UN Ocean Conference, we call on the international community to recognize and support the critical role of localization in achieving SDG 14. We urge governments, UN agencies, donors, and stakeholders to invest in and scale up Local2030 Hubs as engines of transformation. We advocate for the integration of local indicators, data systems, and governance mechanisms into national and global monitoring frameworks.

We reaffirm our commitment to working together—across continents and cultures—to ensure the blue economy is not only sustainable but also just, inclusive, and resilient. The ocean connects us all. Let us ensure our actions, wherever they begin, ripple outward to protect and restore life below water for generations to come.