

2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE ONLINE STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING: INPUTS TO THE POLITICAL DECLARATION ZERO DRAFT

23 March 2022

10:30 – 11:30 AM (EDT, New York)

Written Statement

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According to the aim of the **"Our Ocean, Our Future"** declaration, the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources (Point 2). It is a priority, as described in the declaration, to recognize the importance of our seas, from food security to the proliferation of biodiversity and even the creation of jobs for families. In this regard, climate change (Point 4) is seen as a major threat due to its impact on marine life, changes in the temperature of our oceans, coastal erosion, and much more. Additionally, the adverse effects produced by the COVID-19 pandemic (Point 7) expose an increase in the amount of plastic and pollution in the oceans, beyond the benefits highlighted by the media after the absence of human beings.

Thus, the importance and duty of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) is undeniable. In this way, we coincide on key working points such as: the strengthening of science for marine research, the restoration of biomes, the promotion of biodegradable plastics, etc. Therefore, in addition to the **challenges** outlined in point 5, we must add those of SDG 17, which are: lack of material resources (oceanographic vessels) and personnel to attend to marine and coastal protected areas; lack of institutional coordination and outdated information; invasive species in coastal and oceanic habitats. On the other hand, the **cooperation** outlined in point 12 should be aimed at increasing civil awareness, international indicators, and easily accessible reports of good practices. It is also fundamental for organizations and civil society to take part in all the processes and to be recognized for their work as change makers in the world.

Furthermore, **it is important that the declaration emphasizes 1)** the importance of creating an **ocean culture** in the educational systems, focused not only on teaching but also on promoting social and youth commitment and awareness of the ocean and: ecology, trade, climate change, human health, and the development of a sustainable future. **2)** Integrate **Blue BioTrade**

