

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

Susan Ruffo (United Nations Foundation)

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Political Declaration of the UN Ocean Conference, and for your work to advance SDG 14.

We know that the ocean is critical to our ability to solve the climate crisis, and that climate action is necessary to ensure a healthy and functioning ocean that can in turn support humanity. Ocean action cannot be separated from climate action. Therefore, achieving the goals of SDG14 can help us advance the climate agenda, and advancing the climate agenda is critical for achieving SDG14, among many others.

For this reason, we believe it is important to ensure that the Declaration from the UN Ocean Conference highlights the links between ocean action and climate action, and the need to fully integrate ocean-based climate solutions for mitigation and adaptation, including solutions such as decarbonizing shipping and deploying sustainable offshore renewable energy, and calls for the most ambition possible in these areas.

The maritime sector is an important source of ocean-based emissions reductions, and the investments that will be made in decarbonization solutions also have an important role to play in helping to ensure the long-term resilience of ports and coastal communities, as well as in supporting the just transition of the maritime workforce and economic development of coastal states, all of which underpin the climate and ocean agendas and SDGs generally.

For these reasons, we suggest adding the following new subparagraph to the declaration:

11g: Reducing emissions from international shipping in line with the Paris targets while setting clear interim goals and ensuring that investments in new infrastructure such as ports and ships increase resilience in the face of climate impacts and that no one is left behind.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Ruffo
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