

**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**  
**Valeria Fernandez (COBI)**

On behalf of Comunidad y Biodiversidad A.C. I express the following inputs to the Zero draft of the 2022 UNOC political declaration:

1. Regarding the declaration's commitment to implement science-based sustainability actions, it is of utmost importance to highlight and include the role of citizen science as a mechanism to generate and increase scientific knowledge through the effective participation of local fishing communities, promoting the conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable fishing, especially in the context of COVID-19.
2. Recognize and establish strategies with a cross-cutting approach on the significant role of women, youth, indigenous people, and the Afro-descendant populations as agents of change to achieve social, economic and environmental transformations of coastal communities, as well as for the fulfillment of the SDGs towards achieving ocean sustainability.
3. Highlight and promote initiatives for knowledge transference, including both scientific and traditional knowledge, to the new generations of small-scale fishers, who will be the decision makers for achieving sustainable fisheries and marine conservation.
4. Encourage the use of technology and innovation to connect and mobilize knowledge, solutions, and capital opportunities for marine conservation, ocean sustainability, and better governance. This technology should involve local communities to increase their capacities to influence in ocean sustainability. It is essential to reduce the digital divide and increase the use of technology for social good and inclusion, as well as for the documentation of best practices.
5. To achieve the sustainability of the oceans it is necessary to recognize and guarantee the human rights of small-scale fishing communities, especially those people who have been historically vulnerable, marginalized, and invisible in the sector. This requires to incorporate a gender perspective approach that enable gender equality in fishing activities.
6. There is a need for generating and strengthening capacities (technical, financial, organizational, relational) in fishing communities to participate in ocean sustainability. This will increase the possibilities of these coastal communities incubate and accelerate solutions that derive in ecological, social, and economic benefits.
7. Incorporate the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) in policy and community-based work, order to address the SSF communities' human rights and ocean sustainability. The SSF Guidelines represent an essential tool for the fishing sector and other actors to contribute to the fulfillment of the SDG 14 and other SDGs to achieve social, economic, and environmental well-being by 2030.

My name is Valeria Fernández (vfernandez@cobi.org.mx), at COBI we appreciate the opportunity to share through this space some of the challenges that could become opportunities for many small-scale fishing



communities that participate in ocean activities. Also to raise the relevance of the full exercise of human rights in ocean related-agendas, through the implementation of the SDG 14 and other interconnected SDGs.