

**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**

**Vanesa Tossenberger (WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation)**

Chair, Excellencies,

further to the written input supplied via the chat of the virtual briefing held on 23rd March, I am pleased to submit the following - more detailed - intervention on behalf of WDC and contribute the following suggestions to the Zero Draft:

Under **paragraph 3., line 3 to 5**, we suggest to include the following deletion and additional text:

The ocean ~~is responsible for about 50% of the planet's oxygen production. supplies us with oxygen to breathe. It is also responsible for about 50% of primary production on Earth, thus contributing~~ to food security,

Under **paragraph 4., line 4 to 6** we suggest to include the following additional text:

**Marine species (such as whales) have been severely depleted by human actions but play a critical role in maintaining ocean, and therefore planetary, health and so restoration of ocean biodiversity and biomass must be prioritized immediately.**

Under **paragraph 5** we suggest to add the following additional text **in the final sentence**:

We recognize, in this regard, the particular importance of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and we welcome the decision by the Parties to recognize the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems, including marine ecosystems, **as nature based solutions and** to deliver crucial services, including acting as

Under **paragraph 6** we suggest to add the following additional text **as a final sentence**:

**We recognize the need for effective marine protected areas, where all marine life is strictly protected.**

Under **paragraph 11. a., line 4 to 5, b., line 2 to 6, c. line 5, d. line 7 and 9**, we suggest the following additional text:

a. Informing integrated ocean management, planning and decision-making, through improving our understanding of the impact of cumulative human activities on the ocean and anticipating the impacts of planned activities, **informed by the precautionary principle and thus** eliminating or minimizing their negative effects,

b. Restoring fish stock to levels that produce at maximum sustainable yield in the shortest time feasible **taking into account the importance of a holistic approach that considers the recovery of all ocean life and the importance of functioning food webs and food chains to ocean biodiversity** and minimizing waste, unwanted by-catch **(including marine mammals, seabirds and other non-target species such as sea turtles)** and discards,

c. Preventing, reducing and controlling marine pollution of all kinds, from both land-and sea based activities, including nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ship wrecks and anthropogenic underwater noise, through improving our understanding of their sources, pathways and impacts on marine ecosystems **and**

**human health**, and through contributing to comprehensive life-cycle approaches, that include improved waste management,

f. Developing and implementing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience, including through increasing the use of renewable energy technologies, especially ocean-based technologies, reducing the risk of and preparing for ocean-related extreme weather events, including the development of multi hazard early warning systems and integrating ecosystems-based approaches for disaster risk reduction at cross all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and the impacts of sea level rise, reducing emissions **and additional impacts like noise**, from ocean-based sectors such as maritime transportation, and implementing nature-based solutions **(all of which restore biomass and biodiversity)** for, inter alia, carbon sequestration and the prevention of coastal erosion,

Finally, under **paragraph 12. d.** we suggest to add the following additional language **to the last sentence**:

d. Explore, develop and promote innovative financing solutions for the development of sustainable ocean-based economies, including through public-private sector partnerships and capital market instruments, provide technical assistance to enhance the bankability and feasibility of projects, as well as mainstream the values of marine natural capital into decision-making and address barriers to accessing financing **as well as promote efforts to significantly scale up financing to support ocean- and nature-based solutions and address the huge disparity between investment in nature-based and technological solutions.**

Vanesa Tossenberger - International Policy Director - WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation