March 23, 2022

Ms. Keisha A. McGuire
Permanent Representative of Grenada

and

Mr. Martin Bille Hermann
Permanent Representative of Denmark

To the United Nations

Re: CANEUS Inputs to Revised Zero Draft of Conference Declaration
2022 UN Ocean Conference - Stakeholders Online Briefing

Greetings Excellencies,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Stakeholders Online Briefing held earlier today.

I am pleased to provide you with following 3 inputs to the “Revised Zero Draft of 2022 UN Ocean Conference Declaration”.

Point 7: Add
“We also recognize the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ocean-based economy, and in particular the ocean-based economy of small island developing states, and “Indigenous communities”, which have been disproportionately adversely affected, given their dependence on the ocean-based economy”

*Explanation:*
We believe that the most devastating impact COVID-19 trend is the emergence of global data revolution and disappearing Indigenous Knowledge, which are a double-edged sword disproportionately adversely affecting the communities, given their dependence on the ocean-based economy.

Point 8: Add
We reaffirm that the Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the ocean and seas must be carried out, while ensuring the principles of UNDRIP exploring potential legal pathways for UNDRIP.

*Explanation:*
While UNCLOS recognizes the importance of Indigenous peoples’ roles as full partners, we need to ensure legal coherence with UNCLOS to avoid potential negative impacts on Indigenous People’s collective rights, specifically issues covering Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs).
CANEUS Inputs to Revised Zero Draft of Conference Declaration  
16 March, 2022

Point 12:  
Add to section “e”

Explore to develop a “Global Research and Knowledge Repository”, named “Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure” (IKRI), to preserve and develop capacity and transfer of marine technology.

Explanation:  
While we recognize the role of traditional and local knowledge, innovation and practices held by indigenous peoples and local communities. The many successful Indigenous knowledge and practices are disappearing and there is an urgent need to preserve and integrate to compliment science-based and innovative actions to address the global sea and ocean challenges.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute our inputs to the briefing.

Best regards,

Milind Pimprikar
Chairman