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Ocean Conservancy Statement on the Online Stakeholder Briefing: Inputs to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference Political Declaration Zero Draft

Thank you Chair,

Excellencies, Esteemed Colleagues,

Ocean Conservancy would like to extend its gratitude and congratulations to the co-facilitators for their work steering this process.

The current draft reflects well many of the challenges facing the ocean. However, we continue to be concerned by the lack of specific mention of some of the most pressing priorities and actions to improve and protect the health of our oceans.

As the science is clear on this, in paragraph 5 we recommend acknowledging the compounding nature of climate change impacts on coastal ecosystems and communities, and the outsized need to improve resilience and adaptative capacity.

Relatedly, in paragraph 11 (b), it should be acknowledged the importance of adaptative management that considers climate change to restore and protects fish stocks and habitats.

We believe ocean-based mitigation and adaptation solutions to climate change should be emphasized in the text, as they can contribute significantly to advance SDGs 13 and 14, as well as other Goals to reduce poverty and promote decent work.

We recommend including in paragraph 11 (f) a reference aligning the goals and targets of the IMO to achieve zero-carbon shipping by 2050, and a ban on heavy fuel oil use in the Arctic. Also, we recommend an explicit reference to the need for technology transfer and workforce training to increase the use of ocean-based renewable energy.

We met with satisfaction the outcome of UNEA 5.2 regarding the action against plastics. To encourage all stakeholders to maintain the same level of ambition, paragraph 11 (c) should include a specific reference to plastic including from sea-based sources. In paragraph 11 (d), we support introducing a reference on the production of plastics that become marine litter, eliminating subsidies to produce plastic, and we welcome other language referencing UNEA 5.2 and the international instrument on plastics.

We support including specific mention in the text of lost, abandoned, or discarded fishing gear known as 'ghost gear', which is the most harmful type of marine debris in our ocean, as well as language referencing internationally recognized best practices for the management of fishing gear.



To conclude, we would like to highlight the need for active consideration of ocean justice, including in plastics and climate solutions, and the need for indigenous peoples' engagement in ocean management.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide inputs today, and Ocean Conservancy looks forward to supporting a successful and transformative UN Ocean Conference.