

# 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

**Flora McMorris, Blue Ventures**

Blue Ventures welcomes The Zero Draft of the 2022 UNOC Political Declaration and is supportive of the aim to support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the global biodiversity and climate crises intensify and as the world strives to find sustainable and nutritious sources of food to feed a growing population, we need to harness global best practice to support and secure small-scale fishers' rights and livelihoods, safeguard coastal communities' food security and conserve life in our seas. We need bold action starting with bold leadership.

We offer the following amendments to the text to support this action:

#### **In paragraph 1, we recommend the inclusion of the following language:**

Recognise the role of artisanal small scale fishers in the conservation of ocean biodiversity, food security and poverty eradication.

#### **In Paragraph 6, we recommend the inclusion of the following language (in red):**

"We are deeply concerned by the findings about cumulative human impacts on the ocean, including ecosystem degradation and species extinctions and we recognize the need for transformative change, as highlighted by the Second World Ocean Assessment and the Intergovernmental SciencePolicy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Global Assessment Report. We are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health of the ocean's ecosystems and biodiversity and to protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity. We are encouraged by the commitments by more than 100 Member States to protect at least 30 percent of the global ocean within Marine Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030. We also recognize **[that conservation and environmental management strategies need to go beyond 30% and support a 100% management approach, addressing the underlying drivers of resource degradation and biodiversity loss that also affect the other 70% as well as]** the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and its call to support and scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide

#### **After Paragraph 6, we recommend the inclusion of an additional paragraph:**

[We recognise and commit to protect Indigenous peoples', local communities' and traditional resource users' title, tenure, access, and resource rights to the ocean and prioritises locally-led or collaborative governance and management systems and commit to increase direct financial support to Indigenous peoples and local communities in pursuit of conservation, recognising that despite their hugely valuable contributions to conservation and environmental management, they receive only a fraction of the available finance.]

#### **We support the IISD suggestion of an additional paragraph, perhaps between current paragraph 10 and 11, along the following lines:**

"Welcoming the outcomes of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference and the conclusion of negotiations of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, we commit to the effective implementation of the new agreement, recognizing the importance of technical assistance and capacity building for developing and least developed countries in their efforts to achieve SDG target 14.6."

**In paragraph 12e we recommend the inclusion of the following language (in red):**

[Secure access and tenure rights and] recognize the important role of traditional and local knowledge, innovation and practices held by [artisanal small-scale fishers,] Indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of social science in planning, decision-making and implementation.

**As an additional Paragraph - after paragraph 12e, we recommend the inclusion of the following language:**

[Meaningfully include and secure participation of artisanal small-scale fishers, coastal communities representatives, Indigenous peoples and local communities, in decision-making space.]

**As an additional Paragraph - after paragraph 12h, we recommend the inclusion of the following language:**

We commit to sustainably manage small-scale fisheries through the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication through concrete policies at the national level.