

Mister President, Co Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As Latin American youth, reunited under the Regional Climate Conference of Youth Latin America in its 2022 version, in representation of Uno.Cinco, Eco.House Global, both across Latin America, Sustainable Ocean Alliance Hispano America and Chilean chapters, Sustentabilidad Sin Fronteras (Argentina), Red de Jóvenes y Cambio Climático Costa Rica La Ruta por el Clima (Costa Rica), Munay (Perú), Fridays For Future Honduras, Posadas (Argentina), y Venezuela Región Central chapters; Jóvenes y Cambio Climático (Panamá), Grupo Impulsor de Jóvenes (Perú), FAUBA Verde (Argentina), Asociación para la Conservación Ecológica de las Islas de la Bahía (Honduras), Ekosinergia (Perú), Eco Derecho (Argentina), REPLALEZ (Perú), and Grüne Umwelt (Paraguay), we declare to this Conference:

The oceans are under threat and, even if it is not news that as youth we will deal and live with the consequences, currently we don't have the power to take the urgent decisions to revert them. As you know, the status of the marine and coastal areas in Latin America is alarming: lost of coral reefs, mangroves, wetlands, and peatlands; plastic and chemical pollution; increase of coastal erosion; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and seabed mining are just some of the many threatens. As Latin American Youth we urge decision-makers around the world to be more ambitious, to be really responsible. Now you're listen a voice, but we come here with a concrete demand supported by 30,000 signatures, addressed by the Latin America youth, through the 2021 regional statement of the Regional Climate Conference of Youth for Latin America: we urged the national Governments of our region to adopt the 30x30 initiative, protecting at least the 30% of the marine areas by 2030. Today, we want to reaffirm our petition, and extend it for all the coastal countries around the world. But our petition is not just that, we want to demonstrate to you that it is possible and as youth are deeply committed with our oceans. There are thousands of actions that young people are making for the ocean in our region, even without financial support and

sometimes, putting our lives in risk in the most dangerous region for the activists..As part of this year version of the Regional Climate Conference of Youth for Latin America, we are converging all our actions in an interactive, open and centralized Regional Map of Youth Initiatives against Climate Change, in order to bring to light all the initiatives that young people across our region are carrying out. Showing our compromise with the ocean, at least the 10% of the initiatives part of this map will be engaged with the SGD 14.

Bringing more protection to our ocean is not just an environmental imperative, it is to stand on the side of climate justice and human rights. It is to stand on the side of indigenous peoples, women, youth, children, and millions of people that depend on our oceans. So, in the same way the Latin American youth is currently working for this purpose, and considering that commitments without funding are just words, we demand you, as leaders, as policy makers, and especially to the representatives of the developed countries and to the larger transnational global polluters, to mobilize the required resources and finance to developing countries to advance on the achieve of the SDG 14. Because what you do for the ocean today, as Sylvia Earle said, it will change the future of the ocean -and all Earth- for the next 10.000 years.

Thank you so much. Muchas gracias.