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ACQUA MATER – PATRICIA FURTADO DE MENDONÇA

I'm Patricia Furtado de Mendonça, the founder of the Brazilian organization ACQUA MATER. But I'm here on behalf of dozens of young global marine activists and advocates to tell you that, on an official side event, they launched the detailed science based 15 pages GLOBAL OCEAN YOUTH STATEMENT "My Marina", where they declare that a Healthy Ocean is pivotal to fight the climate crisis and to implement the 2030 Agenda's goals. They urge Global Leaders from all sectors of the society to take action towards Ocean Conservation, Regeneration and Sustainability. They wrote: *"We, as a collective and global youth movement, declare a state of emergency for ocean health. (...) Involvement and participation of young people are matters of justice and representation, as well as the wise route for creative and innovative solutions - especially since they will be the future leaders and inheritors of the coming state of the world.* In accordance to that statement, these days, one of those young leaders, Mark Haver, wrote: *"I'm tired of hearing adults saying: 'My generation has failed, it's up to your generation to fix it'. Trust that we know we need to fix it! It's our liveable future that's on the line (...). The time for listening to the youth is over. Now, it's time to see youth as the colleagues, as the equals, as the valid stakeholders we are. Include us in negotiating teams as such. Now it's time for us to be together, it's time to act. Stop looking at us as youth. Include young people in your delegations and create youth delegation itself. See us for what we are: practitioners of change!*

Thank you.