

OCEAN CONFERENCE

MARIA ESPINOSA, COMUNIDAD Y BIODIVERSIDAD STATEMENT

Mr President, your excellencies, and world ocean leaders,

We are all fortunate to be here, to be together, to be alive, in times of pandemic and war. Many people are no longer with us... in their memory and for the future generations, let's take this unique opportunity to unite our agendas and scale our impact for ocean sustainability.

On behalf of Comunidad y Biodiversidad, I present our statement to accelerate the implementation of SDG14.

- This is a call for action to mobilize, at a much greater scale, local knowledge and solutions for the revitalization of fisheries and oceans. We cannot keep leaving coastal communities behind nor keep working in isolation if we aim for a greater impact on every target of SDG14.
- Let's do this mobilization, with technology...technology for good and for all. Let's break the digital divides and ensure equitable opportunities for all stakeholders.
- Science is essential for ocean sustainability. Let's democratize it. Let's make it public and let's ensure its interface with policy.
- Let's blend financial schemes and invite investors, entrepreneurs and innovators to contribute to addressing the tremendous but fixable challenges oceans are facing.
- And I stress the importance of incorporating a human rights-based approach in all sustainability efforts. We cannot save the oceans or have blue economies at the expense of social justice.

-At Comunidad y Biodiversidad, we developed the PescaData mobile App alongside small-scale fishers, to mobilize knowledge, solutions and capital to scale impact on SDG14, but also, on SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 8 on decent work, and SDG 13 on climate action. Because these are all necessary conditions for healthy oceans and resilient communities.

-With 1600 users in PescaData, we aim to reach 300,000 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

-For small scale fishers, including women and youth, PescaData provides a collective action platform with significant contributions to sustainable fisheries and food systems, marine ecosystem recovery, and local economies.

-Time is ticking and we already behind on the SDG14 targets. It is better to decide to make a difference and make history with large scale action than testify to the collapse of our oceans and the perpetuation of inequalities.

We are ocean people. For our oceans and for future generations, lets accelerate together the implementation of SDG14.

Todos somos comunidad, todos somos biodiversidad.