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Your excellencies and world ocean leaders,

Resilience and participation of fishing communities is essential to address the challenges the oceans are facing, and to sustain marine fisheries and conservation efforts in the long term. Integrating the next generation of fishers and underrepresented actors, such as women, to these efforts is an strategic investment.

On behalf of Comunidad y Biodiversidad, I present a call for action to accelerate the implementation of SDG14.

1. We must mobilize, at a much greater scale, local knowledge, and solutions for ocean sustainability. Coastal communities have developed solutions throughout history, with or without the support of third parties. These solutions have helped them survive unpredictable and global challenges, whilst balancing between healthy ecosystems and social benefits.
2. We must break digital and other divides and ensure equal opportunities for all stakeholders. Let's develop technological tools hand in hand with communities for better management and governance of marine resources. Digital technology is a powerful tool for mobilizing knowledge, solutions, and capital opportunities.
3. We all sail in the same ocean. It is essential to include representatives of the entire value chain in ocean sustainability efforts if we are aiming for a greater impact. In addition, we must visualize, listen, and empower the 50% of people who work in the fishing industry, Women. This will bring new perspectives and allies for community resilience and ocean health.
4. We must raise collective action in local, regional and global arenas. Only through collective action fisheries and ocean sustainability be achieved at scale.
5. It is essential to incorporate a human rights-based approach in all ocean sustainability efforts. FAO small scale fisheries guidelines and the international year of small scale fisheries and aquaculture are great mechanisms to do it. We cannot save the oceans or have blue economies at the expense of social justice or other human rights.
6. 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. 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.

We are ocean people. Let's reconcile and unite our agendas, for the oceans and for future generations. Let's accelerate together the implementation of SDG14.

Todos somos comunidad, todos somos biodiversidad.