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Title of the representative submitting inputs: Blue Network Assistant

I. PLENARY INTERVENTION | 29 June | Time TBC

Thank you Mr. Chairman/ Ms. Chairperson,

And thank you to the United Nations, the co-hosts Kenya and Portugal for the opportunity to address this Conference.

I am speaking on behalf of the Oceano Azul Foundation.

We believe our biggest advantage today is science, and science tells us how serious the ocean crisis is.

We, at the Foundation, spend our efforts and resources working with international and domestic partners to build new, fully or highly protected MPAs. We did so in mainland Portugal, in Algarve, with the engagement of all the community; in Madeira together with its Regional Government implementing the largest fully protected MPA in the North Atlantic; and in Azores, with its Regional Government creating the largest network of marine protect areas, roughly the size of 10% of the entire EU maritime area in Europe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Representing one of the largest food and retail groups in the world, with a turnover of \$23bn and employing more than 120,000 people. Having been in business for over 100 years, it is important to us to help to build a future.

In business we anticipate and shape our space in the market. With nature conservation we must do the same. In uncertain times there is a higher risk in doing nothing than accomplishing something.

With Oceano Azul Foundation we are doing the job we understand we ought to do. We are partnering with governments, regions, and communities to drive our companies to make a positive contribution for a better world. We are doing the best we can, we are doing our part. But more is needed. We need the necessary legally binding conventions and protocols in place. We need you to demonstrate what you will do. Next year. In two years. Please, show us the actions behind your commitments, show us your yearly targets.

We only ask that you, the United Nations, Governments, leaders, to do your job, to do your part, so together we can shape our future.

Thank you for listening.