



RISE UP - A Blue Call to Action is a joint call from Indigenous Peoples and Fisherfolk groups, ocean conservation organisations and philanthropies to governments and corporations to take the transformative actions needed to restore ocean health. Every single one of us depends on the ocean, yet the international political response to the escalating ocean crisis has not been on a scale commensurate to the threats and will not turn the tide on the ongoing ocean degradation and the deleterious impacts on marine life and the millions of people who depend on it for sustenance and livelihoods. RISE UP is civil society's response to inaction and aims to inspire decision-makers to agree on a course of ocean action that will give our Blue Planet the best chance of survival.

RISE UP – A Blue Call to Action was initiated in 2019 to influence the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) which offers a crucial opportunity to set the trajectory for global ocean action in the months and years to come. The RISE UP Network is growing and now numbers more than 550 organisations worldwide.

The six main themes of the Blue Call to Action are:

R – Restore Ocean Life

I – Invest Immediately in a Net-Zero Carbon Emissions Future

S – Speed the Transition to a Circular and Sustainable Economy

E – Empower and Support Coastal People

U – Unite for Stronger Global Ocean Governance

P – Protect at Least 30% of the Ocean by 2030

RISE UP urges governments and corporations to adopt this agenda and commit to advancing its 29 associated and interlinked goals and actions at national, regional and global levels. Working in silos or only partially addressing the agenda will not be enough which underscores the importance of UNOC's convening of the wider ocean community.

RISE UP welcomed the opportunity to contribute to drafting the 2022 UNOC Political Declaration and supports the desire to strengthen the many different aspects of ocean science that will enhance decision-making. Indeed, many RISE UP Network organisations are involved in and look forward to participating in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

However, it is not a lack of scientific understanding or data that prevents us from reversing the decline in ocean health. Many of the key aims and actions in the Declaration mirror those in the Blue Call to Action and are widely accepted as key solutions to the ocean and climate crises, but it is hard to see from the Declaration how these aspirations will translate into concrete actions. To avoid repeating the feeling of 'deep regret' expressed in response to the collective failure to achieve the

four targets under SDG14 that matured in 2020, Member States need to address the underlying systemic causes for the failure. These include putting short-term economic gain over long-term sustainability, partial and ineffective governance and lack of investment. More than anything else, progress has been hampered by a lack of political will.

The coming months offer several major opportunities to make significant progress at the global scale including securing a robust High Seas Treaty before the end of the year, agreeing the 30x30 target while upholding and enhancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples' and coastal communities' rights at the Convention on Biological Diversity and actively integrating the ocean into the ongoing climate work at COP27. Securing these positive outcomes must be prioritised as these key meetings have the potential to move the dial.

Furthermore, in this International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, RISE UP hopes to see emphasis on supporting and empowering small-scale fishers and countries developing ways of prioritising their access to territorial waters.

The RISE UP Network will work constructively to help develop solutions to the difficult issues that will be discussed at UNOC but our work does not stop there. As the long-awaited 'Ocean Super Year' unfolds, RISE UP will be keeping a close watch and holding decision makers to account. The decisions taken constitute a litmus test on whether the fine words of the Declaration are true statements of intent or just that, fine words. 2022 offers nothing less than an opportunity to enact a step-change in our approach to ocean action.

We ask our political leaders to Rise Up for the Ocean.