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**Position of the speaker:** Executive Director of The Millennials Movement

### **Ocean Conference**

**Plenary: Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea  
June 30th, 2022, Lisbon, Portugal**

Your excellencies, stakeholders and young generations

My name is Rosario Diaz Garavito, I am from Peru. I am the Executive Director of The Millennials Movement, a youth lead organization that mobilizes youth in 16 countries of the Latin American and Caribbean Region, and Elected Focal point of the Children, Adolescents and Youth Group for the Formal Mechanism for the follow up of the 2030 Agenda in the LAC region at the United Nations.

Protecting our oceans is an obligation of this generation, including this generation of decision makers, to ensure our survival and a life with dignity and the respect of our human rights and the ones of future generations. The protection of our oceans needs to be focused on fiercely addressing ocean mining, illegal fishery, trawling, oils spills, ocean depredation, ocean acidification, ocean illiteracy, and all the problematics exposed at this Conference, Lets not fall in a blue or ocean washing or another 15 of January for the oceans and the cost lines of Peru. Talking about oceans is also talking about human rights.

My region, the Latin American and Caribbean region is the most deadly and hostile for environmental defenders, where each day we see more laws put in place in order to monitor, regulate, limit and criminalize civil society and dissidents voices who are demanding the protection of our ecosystems including our oceans and hydric resources. The youths of our region face police repression and violence, losing our environmental defenders' parents, but also our eyes and our lives.

Today, I stand here, speaking from a position of privilege that allowed me to be here as a young person, but I wonder, where are the children, the adolescents, indigenous youths, the youths from the global south?, where are the ocean pollution most vulnerable younger generations and stakeholders such as the artisanal fishermen and women? Where is their sit at this table?

To protect the our oceans ensuring meaningful and intergenerational stakeholders participation we call member states to:

- Stablish and recognize a formal stakeholders' participation mechanisms that widely call all and diverse stakeholders following this conference, specially the younger generations including diverse groups and networks of children, adolescents and youth, mobilizing resources to ensure their participation.
- To allocate the needed resources and work on regional responses, including a regional preparatory processes towards the next Ocean Conferences organized jointly with the UN regional Commissions and Regional Stakeholders.
- For the Latin American and the Caribbean Member states to protect our oceans by following the procedures of the Escazu Agreement and adhering to it if they have not yet do so, to protect the lives of our young generations.
- Ensuring the policies put in place to protect our oceans are actually applicable in a real scenarios, with energetic responses from governments to any situation that threatens our oceans putting first the people and the planet.
- For the Member State of Peru, to take the leadership issuing a law to prevent deep ocean mining and we call other states to follow as well.

We thank the young people who contributed with the elaboration of this statement among them our Executive Director Rosario Diaz Garavito and our youth delegates Camilo Ramirez, Nicole Razuri y Hazel Araujo, as well as the youth who participated in the LATAM regional preparatory review process of 2030 Agenda towards the LAC countries Forum for Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC Youth Forum LATAM session, lead by the Children, Adolescents and Youth Group - MeSCLAC.

