Thanks for the floor Madama/Mister Chair, I am glad to be here trying to speak on behalf of the Ocean.

Dear countries representatives, delegates, and colleagues,

I am Laura Basconi from Italy, I am a representative of the United Nations Children and Youth Major Group and I am a marine biologist and ecologist as well as a Ph.D. candidate in Science and Management of Climate change.

I am a scientist, trust me, when I say that looking at the data the situation is critical and we should all be really scared of what is happing in terms of loss of biodiversity and climate change. We must turn the tide to achieve all targets of SDG14 which is strongly linked to the achievement of the whole 2030 Agenda. Biodiversity loss and climate change-related effects maximize over time, and risks increase day by day and that is why we have to act informed with science-based information BUT we have to do it NOW because this science-based information could not be enough to stop the future crisis we are heading to.

To conclude my speech, I encourage you to connect with youth in this conference and beyond and, equally important, get to know the scientific community of your own country. With the Covid pandemic, we have understood that policy needs to be informed by scientists. Trust us, we know what we suggest. To achieve Agenda 2030 we need politicians to recognize children and youth as well as scientist roles in society and not just in words but with the real inclusion of them in decisions and policy-making. I want to stress that because these days I have been listening a lot of you speaking about marine biodiversity and ecosystems. First, do you know the difference between these two terms? Second, do you know which species constitute the biodiversity of your country?

These questions come to you to make you reckon that if you are not able to answer you need to ask the experts in the field… you all have them in your Nations. Engage with the national and international experts and work with them…for real. We are here waiting for you!

Thanks.