

UN Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting

STC MG Statement: Longer version for website publication

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Organization: International Science Council

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Statement delivered on behalf of: Scientific and Technological Community Major Group

Thank you, Excellencies.

I am Dr. Morgan Seag, ISC Liaison to the UN System. I address you on behalf of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, co-coordinated by the International Science Council and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. Our constituency encompasses over 250 national science academies and international scientific disciplinary unions in natural, social, and human sciences, along with over 100 national engineering organizations representing more than 30 million engineers globally.

Many of these organizations have key expertise related to ocean science and engineering solutions necessary to accelerate progress toward conserving and sustainably using the ocean. Our community also includes leading global research networks working on various aspects of ocean science across geographic regions and scientific disciplines, such as:

- The [Global Ocean Observing System](#)
- The [Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research](#);
- The [Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research](#);
- Future Earth Ocean [Knowledge Action Network](#);
- The [World Climate Research Programme](#) (including global projects on the Ocean)

This statement brings together science-informed key messages based on inputs received from the scientific and technological community. We seek to emphasize the following key points to be addressed under the proposed themes for UNOC and in the elements of the political declaration:

1. **Successful implementation of SDG 14 and effectively advancing the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources require co-designing and co-delivering salient and legitimate ocean knowledge actions and solutions.** Participatory approaches securing community support are key for delivering the knowledge and solutions that are relevant and responsive to specific contexts. Integrating interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary insights –

from natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and engineering, alongside Indigenous, local and practitioner knowledge – is essential for identifying effective solutions.

2. **Addressing the alarming degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems requires strong science-policy interfaces at all levels**, facilitating deep engagement of scientists, policy makers and civil society stakeholders, and providing access to the latest science-based insight to the wide range of ocean actors and users. This is key for producing agile and actionable responses to improve the ocean's health and advance its sustainable use, anticipating future risks, and ensuring that decision-makers are up-to-date on key areas of emerging science.
3. **Building pathways to ocean sustainability requires more coherence and directionality**. The interconnected and complex nature of ocean sustainability challenges requires a multistakeholder approach to facilitate systematic change and streamline efforts towards sustainable use and management. Effective partnerships across disciplines, sectors, and relevant actors are essential to drive collective action and innovation. Enhanced coordination among existing initiatives and creating new collaborative frameworks can foster integrated and holistic approaches to ocean management. This includes leveraging financial mechanisms, technological innovations, and community engagement to implement and scale sustainable practices and successful on-the-ground solutions.

The scientific and technological community stands ready to support and inform the intergovernmental processes in preparation for UNOC, leading to a strong political declaration and action plan for the ocean. We are looking forward to working with all of you to co-create and implement the solutions necessary to ensure a healthy and resilient ocean.