

Preparatory Meeting to the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Oceano Azul Foundation
Statement by Peggy Kalas, International Ocean Policy Advisor
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Excellencies, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Oceano Azul Foundation, I wish to thank the co-facilitators, as well as Conference hosts, France and Costa Rica on your exceptional ocean leadership.

Despite clear scientific evidence on both the ocean's central role as a critical life support system for Earth, and acceleration of the planetary crisis, our international ocean agenda is misaligned with the scale of actions required. While there has been progress on global commitments, most remain unimplemented. With only five years to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **2025 must be the year to drive bold, equitable actions** backed by ambitious mandates, clear timelines and concrete measures.

Oceano Azul believes that the UN Ocean Conference in Nice must serve as the catalyzing platform needed to achieve this through high-level commitments by Heads of State and Government that could enable **a political shift in scale, focus and level** on action needed to put the ocean on a path towards resilience and sustainability. We recommend that the Ocean Panels and *Nice Ocean Action Plan* prioritize the following:

1. **Acknowledge the Ocean's Critical Role in Climate Regulation** through explicit recognition by Climate COPs that MPAs are important instruments to combat the climate change.
2. **Develop a Roadmap to achieve 30x30** target set by the 2022 Global Biodiversity Framework, ideally through a mechanism under the CBD SBSTTA to monitor and assess national implementation of Target 3.

3. **Push for the entry into Force of the BBNJ Treaty** through fast-track ratification by June 2025.
4. **Subscribe to a Precautionary Pause/moratorium** on deep sea mining under the ISA until sufficient scientific evidence is available to assess its impacts, and robust environmental regulations are adopted by the Authority.
5. Consider mechanisms that will improve the interface science- policy/decision-making, including through an **International Panel on Ocean Sustainability (IPOS)**.
6. **Prioritize Small-Scale Fisheries**, through a priority right of access for small-scale fisheries in territorial waters.

We look forward to engaging with all stakeholders in the lead up to June 2025 towards accelerating ambitious ocean action and implementation of SDG14 to set the ocean on its course to recovery.

Thank you so much.