

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE FOR A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN

Considering the proposed themes for the Ocean Action panels presented in A/78/880 and based on the main aspects of the **Declaration of the Congress of Integration of Knowledge for a Sustainable Ocean (CISOS24 Declaration)** -the academic event held on June 2024 in the context of Immersed in Change organized by Costa Rica as co-chair of the UNOC 25 Conference- our institution, as an academic stakeholder, wants to emphasize on four main themes that we considered must be critical in the discussions:

- **Governance for Sustainability and Law of the Sea:** We need better and more comprehensive governance (multilevel and multiactor), and international cooperation should be a key tool for understanding and facing common challenges. In this scenario, scientific and blue diplomacy is crucial, and academia must be active in building bridges with governments, civil society, and the private sector.
- **Ocean Risk and Monitoring:** Coastal communities worldwide are vital for inclusive development, and they must be central in scientific and political initiatives to understand changes in the ocean ecosystems. Local governments, national governments, and the academic and scientific sectors must work together to prepare and handle risks derived from the effects of climate change. In this context, technology is vital to collect and systematize data (e.g., numeric coastal and climatic models and satellite information).
- **Ocean Health and Productivity:** A holistic approach to marine pollution (origin and causes) is imperative. Academia and the private sector must collaborate to better understand how to maintain a healthy and productive ocean. The interactions between different fisheries (e.g., artisanal, small-scale, and industrial) must be developed in the context of justice by implementing innovative, clean, and accessible technologies.
- **An Inspiring Ocean:** Scientific research is critical for a sustainable ocean. This research must be inclusive and participative, involving actors such as communities (citizen science) and the productive sector. The deep sea, a frontier that demands our attention, requires even more international cooperation to understand the complexity and vastness of this part of the planet. Interlinkages between climate change, ocean dynamics, and marine and coastal ecosystems must be studied comprehensively with the lenses of justice from the policy-making perspective.

In addition to these four main topics directly connected to the main themes proposed for the discussion panels, our institution, as a university located in one of the most environmentally vulnerable regions (Central America), wants to draw the attention of all the participants to the uneven and complex effects of climate change.

Another key aspect that must be critical in the different discussions of the conference is the role and effective inclusion of local communities from research to policy-making formulation and implementation stages. Accelerating actions to conserve and sustainably use the ocean also starts locally.