

## Statement for Preparatory Meeting of The United Nations Ocean Conference

Young Women in Sustainable Development (YWISD)  
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I would like to present the following statement on behalf of Young Women in Sustainable Development focusing on the theme of the UN Ocean Conference 2025, *“Accelerating action and mobilising all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”*.

Young Women in Sustainable Development is an organisation of young women who are involved in policy, advocacy and grassroots work to support young women across the globe with the necessary tools to help them advocate for areas within the theme of the UN Ocean Conference, in addition to working on the other Sustainable Development Goals.

In relation to section 3 of IV/A of the [background note](#) prepared by the Secretary-General for the Preparatory meeting of the UN Ocean Conference, we would like the voting parties to consider the pressing importance and need to **increase capacity building among young women working at the grassroots level** to accelerate climate action. This includes providing training to coastal and Indigenous communities to bridge the gap between knowledge and action using the tools and facilities made available by the IOC-UNESCO Capacity Building Strategy.

Recalling the issue of lack of financing for SDG14, outlined in section 1 of IV/A of the background note, we ask for the **development of national level programs** - backed by public, private and voluntary investors - to **provide projects lead by young women** with the necessary funding and resources to accelerate action for SDG 14.

As per statistics from the [Ocean Literacy Network](#), only 4% of teachers surveyed from 21 countries felt confident about teaching marine science and ocean topics and in the United States of America research by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration revealed that only 16% of teachers included ocean related topics in their science curriculum. These statistics show that many educational systems worldwide do not adequately cover ocean related topics, leaving a **knowledge gap**. In addition to this, the Australian Marine Science Association found that only 12% of Australian High school students could answer questions about ocean health and marine ecosystems and according to the European Marine Science Educators Association less than 5% of students in the European Union receive comprehensive education on ocean and marine sciences during their primary and secondary schooling. We ask for the **Integration of Ocean literacy into educational curricula** at all levels to empower young women with the necessary knowledge and skills to advocate for and implement sustainable ocean practices.

Reinforcing point 57 from section 2 of IV/A of the background note, that **Small Island Developing States are one of the most underrepresented** groups of states, we would like to highlight that **young women leaders from coastal and Indigenous communities** are key stakeholders within Small Island Developing States. They can help address the impacts of climate change faced by their communities and hold solutions to mitigate these impacts. This can be done by providing them with

the **resources they need including financial support** to carry out these mitigating solutions and a seat at the table in the relevant decision-making processes.

Reiterating point 54 **encouraging investors to redirect their funds** to innovative solutions to improve coastal economies, in section 1 of IV/A of the background note, we would like to urge parties to develop mechanisms at local, regional, and national levels to support **young women-led businesses to secure investments** that can improve coastal community economies and support these young women to be innovators for the restoration and **conservation of coastal biodiversity and marine ecosystems**.

Amplifying point 42 of section 5 of III, of the background note, we request parties to **leverage technology and innovation to monitor and protect marine ecosystems**, with a focus on training and involving young women in these technological advancements.

I thank you.