



**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**BY THE HONOURABLE  
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MINISTER OF PRIMARY RESOURCES  
AND TOURISM,  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**AT THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS  
OCEAN CONFERENCE 2025 (UNOC3)**

**9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Nice, France**

**Thank You Mr. President,**

**Your excellencies,**

1. Brunei Darussalam wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the United Nations and the co-hosts, France and Costa Rica, for convening this important conference. We are honored to join global partners to advance our shared goal of protecting our ocean—under the theme “**Accelerating Action and Mobilizing All Actors to Conserve and Sustainably Use the Ocean.**”

2. As a small coastal nation, the ocean is central to our heritage, economy, and way of life. But like the rest of the world, **we face the challenges of preserving marine resources amid increasing pressures** from overfishing, climate change, marine pollution, and habitat degradation.
3. Thus, it is crucial for us to protect our oceans through better stewardship of the sea and its resources, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.

**Your Excellencies,**

4. In reaffirming our **commitment to sustainable ocean governance**, Brunei Darussalam have **adopted an ecosystem-based policy aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** and the promotion of regional cooperation. Our efforts in **strengthening ocean resilience** include:

- i. **Designating over 20% of our fisheries management area (more than 1,200 sq km) as “No Take Zone” / Marine**

- Protected Areas**, to prevent overfishing and safeguard marine biodiversity;
- ii. Since 2001, Brunei Darussalam have **enforced a moratorium on new bottom trawling license**;
  - iii. **Ban on shark fishing and trade of all shark products** in effect since 2015, to protect the threatened marine species and preserve ecological balance;
  - iv. Our efforts to **combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing** have been ongoing since 2011 through the active enforcement of

**National Plan of Action.** In a significant step forward, Brunei Darussalam has mandated the **use of Automatic Identification System** on commercial fishing vessels to **enhance tracking** and introduced an **Electronic Catch Documentation Scheme** to ensure **full traceability**;

- v. Seagrass is vital to the resilience and productivity of marine environment; hence, Brunei Darussalam is also committed not only to the conservation but also actively propagate our seagrasses, with special focus on the vulnerable species;

vi. Between 2020 and 2023, over **1,400 artificial reefs were deployed**; and

vii. We are committed to **deploy additional 1,000 artificial reefs by 2029**, demonstrating our dedication to marine conservation and environmental sustainability. As we continue to expand this initiative, we welcome interested parties to join us in this effort.

**Your Excellencies,**

5. **Science and innovation** are central to our strategy for sustainable ocean governance. We are conducting **national**

**fish stock assessments** in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center and **developing a Fisheries Stock Database** to enable informed and evidence-based decisions for sustainable fisheries management.

6. We are **leveraging on artificial intelligence to enhance coral reef monitoring**, which allow more accurate assessments of reef health and strengthens our capacity to respond to climate change and ocean acidification.
7. Plastic pollution continues to pose a serious threat to marine ecosystems. The



**“No Plastic Bag Everyday” campaign and community-led coastal clean-ups** reflect our commitment to reducing plastic waste and alleviate negative impact to the ocean.

8. Our **policies are also aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.** We have recently updated the National Biodiversity Policy and Strategic Plan of Action 2024–2030, which sets goals for sustainable resource management, equitable benefit-sharing, and enhanced public awareness.

**Your Excellencies,**

9. This year, we are proud **to host the International Forest to Reef Expedition and Conference**, which gathers experts to strengthen cooperation in managing land, coastal, and marine ecosystems. Looking ahead, I am pleased to announce that **we will be hosting the International Conference on Oceans in June 2026**. We welcome global experts to join us and collaborate in advancing marine research and promote sustainable ocean use.

## **Your Excellencies,**

10. The ocean's vast, interconnected ecosystems and biodiversity demands for **united and collective action to address common threats and advance our goal** to conserve and sustainably use the oceans.

11. Brunei Darussalam calls for **stronger international cooperation, technical support, and funding**—particularly through strategic collaboration with organizations such as the UN and others. These are vital for building national capacity, driving innovation, and enabling

small coastal nations like Brunei Darussalam to take bold, science-driven actions to protect ocean resources and ecosystems.

12. Lastly, Brunei Darussalam echoes the conference's theme and is firmly committed to accelerate efforts and mobilize resources to deliver lasting, positive change for our oceans. **Let us continue to work together to secure a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future for our oceans.**

13. Thank you.