

FINAL PLENARY STATEMENT

High Seas Alliance

Rebecca Hubbard, Director of High Seas Alliance

Dear distinguished delegates.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of High Seas Alliance and its 60 plus members on the final day of a week that has been nothing short of historic for High Seas progress.

We've witnessed remarkable leadership- from governments, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, youth and scientists- all united in turning the High Seas Treaty into action.

We started the Conference with 31 of the 60 ratifications needed to bring the Treaty into force. By the end of Monday, 18 more countries had deposited their ratifications and another 18 had signed- an incredible tidal wave of commitment. That leadership has continued to build throughout the week. With just [X] more ratifications needed, it could be a matter of weeks, if not days before the Treaty enters into force.

This is a milestone moment!

Since the Treaty's adoption two years ago, this Conference has served as a beacon for nations working to complete ratification.

Today, we celebrate a victory not only for the ocean, but for France and Costa Rica as co-hosts and everyone who helped make this happen.

This momentum shows what's possible when the world comes together with urgency and purpose.

Protecting the High Seas- nearly half our planet- is essential for tackling the climate and biodiversity crises. The Treaty's strong conservation and equity measures will be key to achieving SDG14 and protecting at least 30% of the ocean by 2030.

But this journey isn't over.

We must keep our foot on the #RaceForRatification accelerator. The Treaty's power lies in how many countries join. So while we celebrate this incredible progress, we urge all remaining nations to ratify and go well beyond the first 60 needed.

The High Seas Alliance stands ready to support you in making this Treaty a truly global force for ocean protection.

Thank you.

