

The Ocean is our life support system. This is not a slogan. It is a call to action.

Because a healthy ocean equals healthy people. The opposite is an existential threat to all life on earth.

Norway is shaped by the Ocean. Access to marine resources provided by a healthy ocean is our DNA. It is the backbone of our economy, food security and culture.

Today, more than 3 billion people rely on aquatic foods as a primary source of protein. Yet, we are only beginning to understand their full potential. Sustainable food from the ocean can play a vital role in eradicating poverty, improving nutrition, and feeding a growing population — all while preserving the planet that sustains us.

We live in a time where security is the centerpiece of global politics. In this regard we must acknowledge that there is no food security without ocean security. Even abundant fish stocks cannot guarantee safe and healthy food if the waters they live in are polluted. That is why protecting marine ecosystems must go hand in hand with efforts to expand access to aquatic foods. Preventing pollution is not secondary — it is essential.

Aquatic foods are packed with essential nutrients. They can combat hunger, the quiet crisis that weakens millions of lives around the world, especially children. This is where food from the ocean becomes not just a source of calories, but a tool for health, dignity, and development.

Norway is proud to lead the global Action Network for sustainable aquatic food systems, under the UN Decade of Nutrition. And we are committed to continuing this leadership until 2030. Together, we are building bridges between the UN Decade of Nutrition and the UN Decade of Ocean Science — because science must serve humanity, and food systems must serve the planet.

Sustainable Development Goal 14 is not a standalone goal. It is a foundation. Without it, we will not achieve SDG 2 — zero hunger — nor the broader vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Friends,

We must treat the ocean not just as a resource, but as a partner. A source of life, of hope, of solutions. And we must act with urgency — not just for the ocean's sake, but for our own.

A healthy ocean nourishes healthy people.

Let's make that promise a reality — together.

Thank you.