Association EuroMarine

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Distinguished delegates,

Limited/competitive access to research vessels and technologies such as autonomous and remotely operated vehicles, exclusionary funding mechanisms, parachute science, and underrepresentation of early-career researchers, women in leadership roles, and local voices severely constrain our collective capacity to observe, understand, and protect the ocean.

We propose four priorities to address these challenges:

- 1. First, strengthen collaborative science through citizen science, remote observation at sea, and equitable partnerships between academia, industry, and the public—across both the Global North and South.
- 2. Second, increase funding for accessible, cost-effective, and inclusive technologies and research. Funding should also support job opportunities, not only for scientists granted refugee status, but also for scientists within host countries who face limited/competitive access to research infrastructure, including early-career professionals dealing with job insecurity and financial disparity.
- 3. Third, move away from the notion of "capacity building" and embrace "capacity sharing", emphasizing science that is designed, led, and implemented by and for local communities and scientists. This means respecting local priorities, from climate resilience to food security and marine protection, and rejecting one-size-fits-all models of research. It also includes amplifying the voices of indigenous communities, whose knowledge systems are equally valuable to understand and protect our ocean.
- 4. Finally, recognise that deep-sea ecosystems do not have borders and operate on timescales unlike our own. As a global community, we must adapt to the dynamics, limits, and natural variability of the ocean, instead of expecting the ocean to absorb and adjust to the human-driven pressures such as climate change and pollution.

We must rethink who leads, who benefits, and how access to knowledge, research opportunities, and stable career pathways is distributed. Inclusive science, equitable access, and collaboration across communities must underpin ocean governance to ensure SDG14 implementation is fair, effective, and responsive to ocean realities.

Thank you.