

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14 OF
THE AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

THIRD U.N. OCEAN CONFERENCE

NICE, 9-13 JUNE 2025

Plenary Meeting – General Debate

STATEMENT BY THE

SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

H.E. Ambassador Giandomenico Magliano, Official Representative to France

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates,

the Sovereign Order of Malta takes the floor at this UNOC 2025, in Nice, to express its views on an essential dimension — that of the ocean, seas and marine resources — which represents a crucial common public good for the future of the planet, and to offer its contribution to the Action Plan that the here convened community will adopt at the end of the proceedings, with the aim of achieving SDG 14.

The primary international mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta — as is well known — lies within the framework of humanitarian diplomacy, placing at the center of its commitment the relief and the aid to those most vulnerable and to fragile populations. It is for this reason that the principles underlying this Conference, the environmental, social, and economic policies pursued, and the concrete commitments to be made, see the Order of Malta firmly supporting all guidelines that emphasizes cooperation and solidarity among the Parties, as well as the collective interest of today and of future generations.

The Sovereign Order of Malta hopes that international policies on the matter will constantly aim at coherence between long-term preservation of marine resources — also with the support of new technologies — and their exploitation with widespread benefits for all populations, and not restricted to a few subjects.

Moreover, the Order supports — recalling the spirit of the words of the Grand Master, Fra' John Dunlap, on the occasion of the Summit of the Future — that peace and stability among peoples can be built not only by respecting the mutual rights of sovereign entities, but by sharing a supranational vision and management,

specifically of the waters, which cover 71% of our Earth surface and are mainly a common good.

With reference to the challenge of climate warming and the increasing frequency of extreme events, which threaten the very existence of many island States, might weaken or submerge vast coastal areas, and cause desertification or floods in many countries, we believe that, in a spirit of solidarity among States in the procurement of financial resources and in public-private partnerships, policies and actions must be pursued aiming to, at the same time, mitigating the dangerous trends underway and adapting to the severe impacts, particularly in the most vulnerable countries.

Supporting land activities that do not negatively affect marine life, protecting freedom of the seas for navigation, shared scientific research and proper scientific exploration of seabed resources before internationally regulated economic exploitation, and promoting a sustainable blue economy for both the preservation of ecosystems and the development and well-being of countries, are lines of action that require participation, inclusivity, ownership and cooperation. Within this framework, action and monitoring of the United Nations, in coordination with regional and specialized organizations, will succeed to the extent that all components, both sovereign and civil, give their committed support.

Blue diplomacy and effective multilateralism will be instrumental for completing and implementing the international treaties on the matter.

The Sovereign Order of Malta is ready to provide its contribution in order to achieve these ambitious but vital aims and takes this opportunity to thank the UN and the co-hosting countries, France and Costa Rica, for the excellent organization of this Conference.