

*UNOC3 Stakeholder Intervention - Ocean Action Panel 10 - WYCJ*

My name is Samira Ben Ali and I am here on behalf of the World's Youth for Climate Justice.

In its 2024 Advisory Opinion, ITLOS clarified that **anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions constitute pollution of the marine environment under UNCLOS**. This pollution has "deleterious effects," including ocean warming, acidification, and sea-level rise – all of which directly harm marine biodiversity and coastal communities.

UNCLOS clarifies that States have an obligation to "prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the marine environment", and this duty applies *regardless of the source* of the pollution. That includes land-based emissions, but also, crucially, emissions from **offshore oil and gas activities** under a State's jurisdiction. ITLOS also emphasized that the measures to prevent pollution must meet a **strict, objective standard of due diligence**, grounded in the **best available science**.

**And that science is unequivocal:** to meet global climate and ocean protection goals, we must rapidly and equitably phase out fossil fuels. Otherwise we are going against what science tells us is necessary and what law demands as our due diligence.

Moreover, under UNCLOS, States must also apply the **precautionary principle** and conduct **environmental impact assessments**, especially for activities under their jurisdiction. These assessments must consider **cumulative and transboundary effects**.

As the ICJ and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights prepare to issue climate advisory opinions in 2025, it is clear that we must look not only at the Paris Agreement but also customary international law, and human rights law, including the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

To conclude: a fossil-free ocean is not only an environmental or political imperative : it is a **legal obligation for present and future generations**. UNOC 2025 must be the moment where States affirm that ocean protection and climate justice are inseparable.

Thank you.