



## **UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE - ONE OCEAN HUB**

**Speaker: Dr Nonhlanhla Philile Mbatha – preferred name Dr Philile Mbatha**

**Statement: The One Ocean Hub's vision and recommendations for the accelerating the implementation of SDG 14**

### **300 WORDS**

One Ocean Hub envisions fair and inclusive ocean decision-making where both people and the planet flourish. Our work strongly aligns with SDG 14 and highlights the urgency to implement it, given only five years to 2030 and the growing impacts of the planetary climate and biodiversity crisis, particularly in the Global South.

We continue to champion equitable, transdisciplinary partnerships that bring together civil society, governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, UN agencies and other actors to support sustainable fisheries, equitable blue economy practices and inclusive marine and coastal conservation. Central to our approach is the recognition that meaningful implementation of SDG 14 requires co-production across plural knowledge systems. We emphasize the importance of fair research and co-development practices for decision-making as drivers of transformative change. This is because inequitable sharing of benefits from marine and coastal resources remains a major challenge globally. We therefore recognize that support for the respect of tenure rights and human rights of small-scale fishers, women, fish workers, Indigenous Peoples and other marginalised groups is essential to the implementation of SDG 14. We believe in dismantling knowledge hierarchies in decision-making by showing how Indigenous and local knowledge is often misunderstood or sidelined by Western science. We advocate for a broader, more inclusive understanding of science in the implementation of SDG14—one that values plural ways of knowing and that supports just and human rights-based ocean governance. Hence, we highlight the need for recognition that Life Above Water is just as important as Life Below Water.

We're also excited to announce that the One Ocean Hub is developing a Transdisciplinary Toolbox for Ocean Governance as a UN Ocean Decade implementing partner. This resource draws from our innovative approaches to promote dialogue among diverse actors and foster shared visions for accelerating the implementation of SDG 14. More info [www.oneoceanhub.org](http://www.oneoceanhub.org)