



Statement: World Ocean Council

Panel 6, UNOC, 11 June 2025

Nice, France

By: Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy, CEO (a.i.) / Managing Director, World Ocean Council

Good afternoon, my name is Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy, acting CEO at World Ocean Council and co-founder at Okhtapus Ltd. Thank you for allowing me to say a few words on behalf of the World Ocean Council, the global network of businesses, companies and startups focused specifically on “corporate ocean responsibility for a sustainable and regenerative blue economy.”

This is not just good messaging, this is our mandate, or undertaking, and our commitment to all of you and the planet – let me dissect that commitment:

- Responsibility - we must all share it - to take ACTION, to take calculated RISK, to commit to old traditions and new tools, to collaborate with strategic abandon.
- Sustainability - not just for the environment, but for livelihoods, for people, for community, for economy, for society and the planetary systems.
- Regenerative – we are not in the moment to just reflect and repair, we must focus on regeneration to reach our POLYCRISIS moment, to turn back from the Anthropocene that WE have created. To build back innovatively, to build back with a PRECOVERY MINDSET, to get off the recovery treadmill we are on as a global people and planet.

In reality, I speak for much more than the World Ocean Council alone, as we work across sectors, company sizes and geographies around the planet, from startups and scaleups and larger entities working on mCDR, wastewater and ocean energy to those working on data, shipping, mariculture, coastal resilience and beyond.

BECAUSE we represent companies of all sizes, we are committed to bring the best practices, innovations, projects and strategies to more of the planet - to more geographies, thematic areas - to more sectors in and near the BLUE, but also INLAND, to our terrestrial threats that reach the ocean.

World Ocean Council stands ready to engage the corporate sector through our programmes, membership and broader network. Thank you.