



As requested by the UN, this statement is summarized and the letterhead of the accredited organization is included. However, please kindly note that this statement is signed by other organizations and individuals as well. The complete version of this statement and its signatories is available at: <https://bit.ly/StatementUNOC2022>

Joint statement of the civil society for the Political Declaration of the UN Ocean Conference 2022

Right to Science, and an Ethnic and Local Approach to Ocean Literacy

With the aim of contributing to the draft of the political Declaration “*Our ocean, our future, our responsibility*” at the UN Ocean Conference, the undersigned organizations and individuals request the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives to include the recognition of the right to benefit from science and its applications (further referred to as 'right to science' for the purposes of this statement), and the acknowledgment of an ethnic and local approach to ocean literacy.

Right to science

Although there has been a greater incorporation of progressive language and ideas in the Declaration during these years of preparation for the Conference, there is one key concept that is still missing: the right to science as the basis for achieving sustainable and equitable use of the oceans (SDG 14).

The right to science, based on the various types of knowledge, is a pillar for the sustainable use of the oceans to be equitable. That is why access to science and its applications must be linked to the social target of the SDG: *provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine biodiversity (target 14.b of the SDG 14)*. The right to science must catalyze access to sustainable and equitable use of the oceans for small-scale artisanal fishers. This right is closely linked to other rights, such as the right to a healthy environment, water and sanitation, work, freedom of movement, food security and food sovereignty (cross-cutting in other SDGs).

In this regard, we claim the paragraphs below to be added in the Declaration:

We recognize that guaranteeing the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, “right to science” [Based on Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; General Comment No. 25 on Science and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)] is a fundamental pillar to achieve access to sustainable and equitable use of the oceans for all.



**OBSERVATORIO
PARA LA GOBERNANZA
MARINO COSTERA**

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Add in paragraph 11.b of the Declaration:

As stated in SDG 14, 'saving our ocean must remain a priority.' The achievement of target 14.b, about providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine biodiversity, must be based on scientific knowledge and science innovations that underpin conservation and sustainable use of the ocean. Meeting the needs of local communities and ensuring sustainable use of marine biodiversity must also be based on up to date scientific knowledge as well as traditional knowledge.

An ethnic and local approach for ocean literacy

Ocean literacy (OL) can be a pivotal transformative and empowering factor to make social changes and to ensure access to sustainable and equitable use of the oceans. For that purpose, the aim of OL is to provide scientific based knowledge and tools that can serve as a basis for an informed environmental participation of communities in the decision-making process, an awareness of the importance to keep an ecological balance in the relationship between communities and the ecosystems, and a positive transformation of local practices, toward a better future.

We strongly believe that communities, especially Indigenous People, Ethnic Communities, as well as small-scale fisher communities, not only shall have access to scientific information, but also, they could share their ancestral and traditional knowledge about the oceans to benefit all of us. Ultimately, those who know the better the ocean are those who have built an interdependent and ancestral relationship with them, and who depend on the seas for their cultural and life survival.

In view of the above, we claim the paragraph below to be added in the Declaration:

Add in paragraph 12.g

Ocean literacy must consider the traditional knowledge of those who have built an interdependent and ancestral relationship with the oceans, and their cultural and life survival relies on their conservation and sustainable use, such as Indigenous Peoples, Ethnic Communities, and artisanal fishing communities.

With due consideration, signed by the below.

The list of signatories is available at <https://bit.ly/StatementUNOC2022>