



NURSES ACROSS THE BORDERS

HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE-INC. An international Charitable Non Governmental Organisation

(NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC-UN)

Headquarters: 7 Odebiyi Street. Orelope, off Isiba Oluwo Road, Egbeda Estate, Akonwonjo. Lagos

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RC No. CAC/T/NO 19038 (NIG.)
EIN: 20-2889023 (USA)

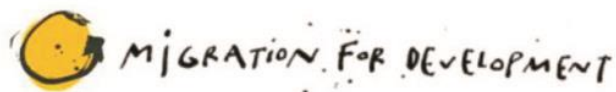
JUNE 20, 2022

STATEMENT BY: NURSES ACROSS THE BORDERS, NIGERIA AND SEATRUST INSTITUTE, USA AT THE UNITED NATIONS OCEANS CONFERENCE, 2022 IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

To the United Nations Oceans Conference: Contribution statement of SeaTrust Institute's Dr. Lynn Wilson AND Nurses Across the Borders via Pastor Peters Omoragbon:

SeaTrust Institute and Nurses Across the Borders have a significant history of collaborating on issues relating to human and environmental health. As a research and educational NGO, SeaTrust Institute focus is to contribute to building the relationship between science and policy efforts to impact building and maintaining resilience to climate and environmental change as we have done since before the formation of the SDGs and through various conventions from biodiversity to RIO+20 to the UNFCCC. With Nurses Across the Borders, we link our work with human health and the action on the ground that promote human health as a way of measuring the effectiveness of resilience development.

As we discuss at this conference SDG 14 and its interlinkages to other SDGs, partnerships, UN initiatives and global efforts, one linkage stands out as central to meaningful action; that is, the work that occurs at the nexus of ocean health and human health and well-being. The addition of well-being is critical; actions that contribute to ocean health ripple across all SDGs and their supportive efforts because ocean health is absolutely critical in achieving resilience as defined in the IPCC AR6. Ocean health, whether that involves pollution, fisheries, deep sea mining, energy production, chemistry, loss and damage, vulnerable populations or the myriad other areas addressed not only in this conference but in all work related to the SDGs,



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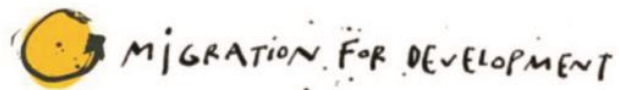
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is of paramount importance. The key to the linkage lies in catalyzing people to act on behalf of improving the health and condition of our oceans. Issues related to human health act at that catalyst, particularly if presented as opportunity rather than catastrophe.

In this increasingly complex and disaster-filled world, just getting attention in a theater where everything is urgent lends towards pointing out the disasters that await humankind (and are already occurring) if ocean issues are not addressed. The pandemic has raised the specter of the myriad viruses in the ocean and how chemical changes favoring them may create new pathways for transmission to humans and the environment we depend upon for food, safety and even breathable air. Turning the attention to well-being reframes the disaster thinking towards resilience thinking; what aspects of ocean health improve the ability of people in drought or areas of increasing desertification to grow food? If MPAs have strengthened some fisheries' yields, what can we learn from the mobile aspects of a moving ocean to inform our policies to adapt strategies in a fluid environments (whether that be an ocean, an atmosphere or changing environmental conditions) to improve economies, safety and human lives? What new and different partnerships are required and what are the parameters of those partnerships that break traditional barriers and competition for finance and resources to replace siloed efforts with boundary-erasing actions that self-modify as conditions change faster than either science or policy alone can respond?

Applying the learning and lessons from science, policy and empirical observation now requires changing our thinking to a focus on resilience, collaboration and action that improves the lives of people in ways they understand, can see in real time and have meaning at all scales. Human health is measurable; well-being is all inclusive. By beginning there, with



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health as a positive, forward thinking resilience strategy (as opposed to disease, degradation or mortality as the focus), ocean health becomes the interlinkage to the SDGs and the cornerstone of human well-being.

Respectfully,

Dr. Lynn Wilson

Executive Director/CEO

SeaTrust Institute

Pastor Peters Omoragbon

Executive President/COE

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