Second Because the Ocean Declaration

Marrakech COP22, 14 November 2016

At COP21 in Paris, the first Because the Ocean Declaration emphasized the important role of the Ocean for the climate system. It pledged to support the elaboration of an IPCC Special Report on the Ocean, to promote a High-Level UN Conference on Oceans and Seas, and to develop an Ocean action plan under the UNFCCC.

At COP22 in Marrakech, the second Because the Ocean Declaration, below, builds on achievements and consultations that followed: the entry into force of the Paris Agreement and the reaffirmation of the importance of the Ocean to climate action, the decision by the 70th UN General Assembly to convene a High Level UN Conference on Oceans and Seas in June 2017, the 43rd Session of the IPCC’s decision to undertake a Special Report on the Ocean and the Cryosphere, consultations at the Bonn Climate Conference in May 2016 and at a workshop entitled “Is the Paris Agreement Good News for the Ocean?”, held in Washington DC in September 2016.

Because the Ocean has a critical role in the global response to climate change in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, we reaffirm the principles and ideas contained in the first Because the Ocean Declaration in Paris at COP21.

Because the Ocean and the cryosphere’s interlinkages with climate change will be fully reviewed in the IPCC Special Report to be released in 2019, we would like to underline the importance of the further scientific knowledge that can be brought to light and that it can be critical for us policy-makers, to better understand, (1) in terms of mitigation: the biological interactions of marine biodiversity with greenhouse gas emissions and removals and the climate system, and (2) in terms of adaptation: the socio-economic and environmental implications of climate change impacts on the ocean. We look forward in this regard to the outcome of the scoping meeting for this report that will take place in Monaco in December 2016.

Because the Ocean is taking an increasingly central place in the global policy arena, we are encouraging UNFCCC Parties to consider submitting Nationally Determined Contributions that promote, as appropriate, ambitious climate action in order to minimize the adverse effects of climate change in the ocean and to contribute to its protection and conservation.

Because the Ocean plays an integral part in any long-term low-carbon strategy, we encourage UNFCCC Parties to include oceans in pre-2020 ambition and the Global Stocktakes. This could include considerations for mitigation and adaptation to climate impacts on ecosystems, livelihoods and economic activities that cannot be sustainable without a climate-resilient and healthy Ocean.

Because the Ocean and the Sustainable Development Goals require the urgent attention of governments and all stakeholders, we are committed to making the utmost of the opportunity to address climate and ocean interlinkages at the High Level UN Ocean Conference on the Implementation of SDG14 to be held in New York in June 2017.

Because the Ocean needs effective and urgent action from all non-State actors, we shall continue to foster and develop new bridges between governmental, intergovernmental and civil society initiatives and platforms working to address the role of the ocean both in the Global Climate Action Agenda and in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Because the Ocean requires commitments to be transformed into concrete and ambitious action we emphasize the need to stimulate support for ocean-related projects, in line with the goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, through existing instruments.
Welcome, bienvenue! Thank you, merci for joining us for the launch of the second **Because the Ocean Declaration**, which you can find on the back of this page.

The first **Because the Ocean Declaration** was signed in COP21 Paris by Heads of State and Government and Ministers from: Aruba, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, France, Guinea Bissau, Kiribati, Madagascar, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palau, Peru, Senegal, Seychelles, Spain, Sweden.

It called for three actions:

1. **We pledge** to support the proposal for a Special Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to address comprehensively the ocean/climate nexus.
2. **We reaffirm** our commitment to reinforce Ocean resilience by meeting the targets agreed under the UN Sustainable Development Goal #14 (SDG 14): Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development; with this in mind we express support for the convening of a high-level UN Conference on Oceans and Seas in June 2017 in Fiji to promote implementation and to maintain political momentum to achieve SDG 14.
3. **We believe**, in keeping with the sense of urgency, that it is high time to promote an Ocean action plan under the UNFCCC, starting in 2016, and we shall continue to meet as a group to address the challenges identified in this declaration, inviting the participation and input of other relevant processes and initiatives, within and outside the UN.

Shortly thereafter, the 43rd Session of the IPCC and the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly respectively endorsed the actions called for in paragraphs 1 and 2.

**Now at COP22 in Marrakech**, following consultations held throughout the year, the launch of the second **Because the Ocean Declaration** today **reaffirms political commitment and provides a way forward** for each of the three areas of action addressed last year, including a strong focus on Ocean action within the UNFCCC.

**Monday 14 November 2016, 18h30, Pavilion of France COP22 - Programme:**

1. Keynote remarks by co-organizers of the high-level event
2. Interactive dialogue, moderated by former BBC Environment correspondent Richard Black
3. Signature ceremony and short statements by high-level officials

**Twitter hashtags:** #BecauseTheOcean #OceanforClimate