

## TO GOVERNMENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE 2025 (UNOC3)

The upcoming high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (UNOC3) will take place in June 2025 in Nice, France. UNOC3 must become a turning point for ocean protection. This important moment cannot be wasted. Earth's oceans, seas, and marine wildlife are under increasing threat from human activities, jeopardising their vital functions on which all life depends. Earth's largest carbon sink, the ocean, has already absorbed 90 percent of the excess heat from carbon emissions, leading to rising seas, melting ice, intensifying marine heatwaves, and increasing acidification with severe consequences for marine life.

Fossil fuels are responsible for over 75 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90 percent of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The UN Emissions Gap Report 2023 highlights that if current policies persist, global emissions will reach 56 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents by 2035—55 percent higher than the level required to stay below 1.5°C. Achieving the Paris Agreement's targets demand an immediate halt to the search for new hydrocarbon deposits. Yet, billions of dollars continue to be poured into seabed exploration for oil and gas, even within marine protected areas.

The era of fossil fuels must come to an end.

UNOC3 has an opportunity to spearhead the transformative change needed to tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss; to set a bold new benchmark that propels the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other frameworks to go further. This is the moment for UNOC3 to lead, not follow.

With the Zero Draft of the UNOC-3 Declaration, *Our ocean, our future: accelerating action*, now in circulation, we, the undersigned, call on you to honour the agreed objective in the First Global Stocktake at Climate COP28: "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science".

**We urge you to use the opportunity presented by the Zero Draft to secure UNOC3's adoption of a State-level prohibition on all fossil fuel exploration activities throughout national territories, including the territorial sea, Exclusive Economic Zone, and continental shelf, and phase out existing fossil fuel extraction.**

Yours sincerely,

Nicolas Entrup  
Director International Relations  
OceanCare

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1. OceanCare
  2. Seas At Risk
  3. United for Ocean (UFO)
  4. Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative
  5. The Green Fix
  6. ClimaTalk
  7. Island Innovation
  8. End Fossil Occupy Uganda
  9. Dolphin Biology and Conservation
  10. Fridays for Future Austria

11. Environmental Investigation Agency
12. Youth Climate Collaborative
13. Cambridge Climate Society
14. NGO Eco-team
15. Green Balkans NGO
16. Cetacean Society International
17. The ClimAct Initiative
18. ARTSail Residency and Research Initiative
19. Here's The Plan Podcast
20. Olive Ridley Project
21. Gallifrey Foundation
22. SHE Changes Climate
23. Plastic Pollution Coalition
24. The Last Plastic Straw
25. Force of Nature
26. INITIATIVE2030 - live the goals
27. Sciaena
28. Young Researchers of Serbia
29. Extinction Rebellion Belgium
30. Reclaim Finance
31. Center for Protection and Research of Birds
32. Coal Action Network
33. Klimabündnis Österreich
34. EmpoderaClima
35. Care About Climate
36. Centro de Conservacion Cetacea
37. Instituto de Conservacion de Ballenas
38. UK Youth Climate Coalition (UKYCC)
39. Parks- Dinarides- network of protected areas of Dinarides
40. Oceania Pride
41. Global Youth Coalition
42. Benin Environment and Education Society
43. Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania
44. Marilles Foundation
45. Parents For Future Austria
46. Global 2000
47. Global Shapers Vienna
48. ECCEA (Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness)
49. Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change
50. Pro-Environnement Benin
51. CEE Bankwatch Network
52. AllRise
53. The Climate Reality Project Europe
54. Seal Research Trust
55. Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)
56. Centre d'éducation et de recherche de Sept-Îles
57. NOAH - for animal rights
58. Save the Med
59. Whale and Dolphin Conservation
60. Biofuelwatch
61. The Joanna Toole Foundation
62. Surfrider Foundation Europe
63. Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (BUND)

64. British Divers Marine Life Rescue
65. Coalition Clean Baltic - CCB
66. Tuesdays for Trash
67. Naturskyddsforeningen - Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
68. Blue Green Generation
69. Carolina Ocean Alliance
70. Positive Ripple Consulting
71. Ecologistas en Acción
72. Under The Pole
73. Sustainable Ocean Alliance
74. SeaLegacy
75. M.E.E.R.
76. Dolphin Connection
77. Pro Wildlife
78. International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
79. Origami Whales Project
80. Associació Cetàcea
81. ASSOCIACIÓ CATALANA DE DONES DE LA MAR
82. Fundación Cethus
83. Cetaceans.org
84. Associació Som Mar
85. Urgewald
86. Cet Law
87. Sharkproject International
88. Club Alpbach France
89. YOUNGO Ocean's Voice working group
90. Institute of Fisheries Management
91. Greenpeace International
92. Marine Connection
93. Fridays for Future Berlin
94. CliMates Austria
95. Último Recurso
96. Oceanic Global Foundation
97. Morigenos - Slovenian Marine Mammal Society
98. Youth Love Egypt Foundation
99. Center for International Environmental Law
100. Re-Earth Initiative
101. AbibiNsroma Foundation
102. Oxford Climate Society
103. ZERO - Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System
104. legaseas.org
105. Center for Biological Diversity
106. Friends of the Earth International
107. Climate Action Merribek (Australia)
108. The ChariTree Foundation
109. Iceland Nature Conservation Association
110. Climate Action Network (CAN) International
111. Fundación Renovables