

**2020 UN Ocean Conference – Preparatory Meeting, 4-5 February 2020, United Nations Headquarters, NY.**

**Stakeholder Statement: Lloyd's Register Foundation**

I am Vincent Doumeizel from Lloyd's Register Foundation, our Group is active in the ocean since 1760 and with 280 years of experience, we consider the ocean as the key to sustainable transportation, energy and food systems for the world of tomorrow. When it comes to Food, we moved from prehistory to modern human beings 10 000 years ago when we stopped being hunters & gatherers to become farmers. This shift has never been done with the ocean and we are now destroying the entire ocean ecosystem while minimizing potential resources. When it comes to food, ocean covers 70% of our planet and contribute to less than 3% of our food. Whilst over 820 millions starving in the world, and as this figure is on the rise again for the last 5 years, this situation is not acceptable anymore. We believe that sustainable aquaculture is the only way to feed safely and sustainably a population of 10 Bn people by 2050. Quite often neglected, the basis of this marine ecosystem are Plants ( seaweeds). Without them, the ocean will be a desert. Seaweed represent a strong resource with multiple applications, no competition to land production, no need for fresh water or chemicals and a strong potential for poverty alleviation & women empowerment in emerging countries. Seaweed could be a source of

- 1) Food : Nutritionally, low in fat and rich in carbohydrates, minerals, vitamins and essential micronutrients (iodine, zinc, iron.. The dry-matter composition of seaweeds ranges from 10–30% protein, compared to only 25% for soy.
- 2) Feed : with positive impact on methane reduction for livestock (10% of GHG emissions) and fish immunity and welfare
- 3) Carbon Sink : Kelp forest absorb 3 times more GHG than the entire amazon forest and tend to disappear in some places (Tasmania, Oregon) with very little concern to everyone
- 4) Fertilizers : rich in Phosphorus and Nitrogen, could replace chemical inputs on land
- 5) Ecosystem services: provide a basic food and reproduction place to most of the marine environment
- 6) Bio-Packaging to replace plastic and mitigate plastic pollution, many companies already started pilots
- 7) Energy and biofuel
- 8) Hydrocolloids for textile, food, cosmetics, medicines, etc...

Many initiatives all around the world are launched related to this new untapped potential but they are done in isolation at country or regional level. The total absence of a global policy / ambition on seaweed prevent this industry to take off in order to contribute to a still possible sustainable future. Multilateral agreements, cross countries collaboration, public-private partnerships are critical to realize the potential of this resource as there are no frontiers in the ocean for seaweeds, fishes and viruses...

We want to support the emergence of a global coalition to address in a safe and sustainable way this topic by gathering the many seaweeds stakeholders around the world and enable collaboration, we want them to collaborate to establish modern cultivation of seaweed in offshore areas, we want potential markets to be mapped, permitting and global standards clearly defined to access these markets, we want aquaculture to integrate both animal & marine activities, we want research to be scaled up and shared in order to reach the same level of expertise as for land production. Eventually, we want this blue economy to be a bit greener than it is today in order to bring a really positive impact to our ocean and to our entire planet!