



Statement delivered on behalf of the Ocean Youth Forum

**2020 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable
Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and
marine resources for sustainable development**

Preparatory Meeting

Thank you and good morning co-facilitators, excellencies, delegates and colleagues.

In alignment with the UN Ocean Conference theme, "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions", the Governments of Portugal and Kenya will likewise host the Ocean Youth Forum, organized by the Sustainable Ocean Alliance, the world's largest network of young ocean leaders, in close cooperation with the Portuguese Ministry of Education/Secretary of State for Youth and Sport and Oceano Azul Foundation. The Ocean Youth Forum will feature youth-led ocean solutions addressing the SDG14 targets and focusing on the two pillars science and innovation.

The organizers of the Ocean Youth Forum encourage all member states and civil society organizations to nominate young ocean leaders implementing ocean solutions from the local to global level to attend the forum. The forum seeks to ensure that youth from small island developing states, indigenous peoples, and least developed countries are included in the forum.

We would like to call attention to the need for resources, capacity building and financing to achieve the goal of "scaling" solutions. There is no shortage of transformative ideas among young people, but there is a shortage of available resources to enable their ideas and solutions to take shape.

The Ocean Youth Forum seeks to empower young ocean leaders to leverage design thinking and strategic frameworks to accelerate innovation and change. It will present more than 100 youth-led solutions and we call on all in a position to do so, to use this opportunity to connect with and support young ocean professionals, scientists, students, advocates and activists.

Finally, and echoing the call by the United Arab Emirates today and the President of the General Assembly yesterday, we also encourage all member states and civil society organizations to not only consider but to integrate the voices and opinions of youth in this process and to ensure a final declaration addresses our need for access to blue economic opportunities, our right to a livable future, and the fact that our time for action is running out.

Thank you.

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