

WWF statement 5 February 2020 at the Preparatory Meeting for the 2nd UN Ocean Conference - on elements to be included in the Outcome document

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

WWF supports the statement by RiseUp Blue Call to Action coalition and is proud to be a partner in this effort.

We would like to make a few remarks, having listened to discussions in this room:

- While the Blue Economy has clear potential to provide jobs and growth, technology and innovation alone will not make it more sustainable. Let's ensure that plans to expand the Blue Economy recognise the fundamental importance of natural capital, and equitable sharing of benefits, if they are to be truly sustainable. The Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles provide vital guidance to do just that.
- Science and data are important and, as we know, there is lots to discover about the ocean. Thus, let's use the precautionary principle to guide our actions, as the Dominican Republic mentioned yesterday.
- Instead of adding additional stressors to ocean health, such as opening up a new frontier for minerals extraction in the ocean, let's work toward ocean protection and restoration, and a transformation of the resource economy to a circular economy, as mentioned by New Zealand.
- The role of communities and traditional knowledge is critical in the planning, management and protection of shared resources. But let's keep in mind that those most impacted by the changes in the ocean and the climate cannot be expected to contribute unless they are supported and empowered to do so.
- 2020 brings the opportunity to secure a [New Deal for Nature and People](#) to join the dots between climate, biodiversity and human societies. To truly recognise the vital importance of the world's oceans to all three, we need a new global biodiversity framework, action on climate change, a global treaty on plastics, and a treaty for the ocean beyond national jurisdiction.

Let's use this year to forge agreements and action for our ocean. Ocean life and coastal communities on the frontline cannot wait. The world is watching – the time for action is now.

Thank you.