The Second *Because the Ocean* Declaration was launched at COP22 Marrakech by Heads of State and Government and Ministers from the following countries: Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Palau, Peru, Republic of Marshall Islands, Senegal, Seychelles, Spain, Sweden.

Belgium, Guatemala, Haiti, Jordan, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Singapore and Uruguay joined at the Bonn Climate Conference in May 2017, Malta joined at the Fourth Our Ocean Conference in October 2017, and Colombia, Finland, Honduras, Italy, Romania and the United Kingdom joined at COP23 Bonn, elevating to 33 the total number of signatory countries.

It builds from the first Because the Ocean Declaration, signed by 23 countries at COP21 Paris, and the achievements that followed: the adoption and entry into force of the Paris Agreement, 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.

*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.
The Because the Ocean Declaration was signed in Paris during COP21 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.

Under UNFCCC Art. 4.1 (d) all Parties committed to: “promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.”

This is a collective legal obligation our countries share as Parties to the UNFCCC.

As COP21 is about to begin, and regardless of its final outcome, we urge the international community to take action in order to enhance global Ocean resilience to the impacts of CO₂ emissions and climate change.

Because the Ocean sustains life on Earth and our collective well-being. It produces half the oxygen every human being breathes. It also absorbs 25% of all the CO₂ emitted by human activities, it captures approximately 90% of the anthropogenic heat added to the global system, and it receives nearly all the water from melting ice.

Because the Ocean is central to economic wealth, with an estimated contribution of between US$3-6 trillion per year to the global economy. 90% of globally traded goods are transported by sea; fisheries provide 4.3 billion people with more than 15% of the animal protein consumed, and coastal areas provide crucial services for local communities.

Because the Ocean is already experiencing significant stress, now aggravated by increased CO₂ concentrations liable to seriously affect marine life. Carbon dissolved in the Ocean alters its chemistry, already driving acidity up by 30% since the beginning of the industrial revolution.

Because the Ocean is warming, causing irreversible damage to coral reefs and other ecosystems and species, stronger storms, changes in sea currents, including accelerating the spread of invasive species.

Because the Ocean level is rising, and we must anticipate that millions of people are at risk of being displaced especially in low lying areas and Small Island States.

Because the Ocean will have a critical role in the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement and its accompanying decisions.

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.

Paris, 29 November 2015

The launch of the Because the Ocean declaration (L-R): Minister Oslin B. Sevinger (Aruba), Dra. Amparo Martinez Arroyo (Mexico), President Tommy Remengessau (Palau), Minister Isabella Lövin (Sweden), HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, Minister Inia Seruiratu (Fiji), Minister Segolène Royal (France), Secretary of State Jochen Flasbarth (Germany), Minister Heraldo Muñoz (Chile), President Anote Tong (Kiribati), Rebekah Riley (New Zealand), Minister Catherine McKenna (Canada). © Kashfi Halford

The Because the Ocean initiative was launched at COP21 with the support of Chile’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France’s Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Global Ocean Commission, the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDRRI) and Tara Expeditions.