

## **062 For an ocean, heritage of humanity**

NOTING that the seas are connected into a global ocean, which covers 71% of the planet;

UNDERLINING that this ocean is home to millions of species, that its ecosystems and their functioning are still poorly understood and that many discoveries remain to be made;

UNDERLINING that this ocean is fundamental for climate regulation, oxygen production, absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and excess heat generated by human activities, that its fisheries resources are essential for the food security of billions of individuals and that it is a source of solutions for adaptation to climate change;

OBSERVING WITH CONCERN the pollution of the ocean, the rise in its temperature, its acidification, its deoxygenation, the modification of its currents, the reduction of certain fish stocks, its loss of biodiversity and the alteration of its ecosystems;

RECALLING the commitments made within the framework of international agreements promoting the protection of the ocean and its sustainable use for the benefit of all;

WELCOMING the successful conclusion of international negotiations for a legally binding agreement on the protection of biodiversity in international waters and advocating for its early entry into force;

REGRETTING, however, the inadequacy of the measures taken to prevent or reduce the deterioration of the ocean, the lack of resources allocated to marine research and the sharing of results;

CONCERNED about the slowness and difficulties in adopting international agreements for the protection and regeneration of nature and in particular the ocean; and

ALSO REGRETTING the lack of provisions to compensate for the shortcomings of States in the exercise of their powers of control, policing and repression of illicit activities carried out under their flag;

### **The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:**

1. CALLS ON States to designate the Ocean as Heritage of Humanity, and CALLS ON States, competent authorities and all persons to make it their moral duty to protect it accordingly;
2. CALLS ON States and institutions to make it their moral duty to act beyond the sole commitments they have made relating to the use, preservation and sharing of the benefits of the ocean, and urges all ocean stakeholders (including institutions and private sector actors) to act accordingly, in particular by:
  - a. systematically assessing the impacts of human activities on the ocean, wherever they are carried out on Earth;
  - b. implementing measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for negative impacts;
  - c. supporting the development of activities with positive environmental and social impacts;
  - d. strengthening scientific research and the exchange of knowledge and skills on the ocean;
  - e. encouraging and strengthening individual or collective actions in favour of a good ecological status of the ocean; and
  - f. contributing to the establishment and strengthening of shared governance mechanisms for the ocean; and

3. CALLS ON everyone to act beyond legal considerations alone in order to actively participate in the preservation of the ocean, in particular by:

- a. developing knowledge on the impact of their activities on the ocean, wherever it is on Earth;
- b. avoiding, reducing or compensating for these impacts as much as possible; and
- c. promoting the consecration of the ocean as the Heritage of Humanity and the individual and collective attitudes that result from this.