**Brussels Declaration “The Ocean and Climate Change”**

*Draft – January 2019*

*We, the undersigned, present at the High-level Conference on Oceans and Climate Change held in Brussels on 19 February 2019:*

***Sustainable Development, climate change and ocean biodiversity***

Reaffirm the commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 1, 7, 9, 13 and 14, as well as in “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action”;

Continue to support the work of the UN Special Envoy for the Oceans to follow up on the outcomes of the UN Ocean Conference in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, maintaining the momentum for action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

Underline the critical importance of science based policy making; Call on all countries to engage with and support the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Support ocean and climate related actions within multilateral conventions such as UNCLOS, the CBD, the RAMSAR convention and others;

Commit to continue engaging constructively in developing an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, recognizing that combating the adverse impacts of climate change is a necessity for this future instrument to reach its full potential.

Emphasise the need to establish the role of a healthy ocean in relation to climate change within the UNFCCC process by 2020. In this regard, call upon all UNFCCC Parties to join the Oceans Pathway Partnership;

Call on the international community to duly take into account the IPCC *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* (IPCC SROCC) to be released in September 2019 and in particular to consider the impacts of sea level rise and the resulting displacement and resettlement, as well as the effects climate change on marine ecosystems and dependent communities and their livelihoods, and the implications of mitigation measures. Appeal to all countries, non-state actors and international organisations, to act in accordance with the pathways to resilience and sustainable development, adaptation options and limits to be identified in the IPCC SROCC;

Express their deep concern over the findings in the IPCC *Special Report on Global Warming of 1,5°C* (SR1.5) , unequivocally confirming the negative impacts of climate change, including on the ocean.

Stress that limiting warming to 1,5 °C above preindustrial levels is feasible and would considerably reduce these impacts, but requires immediate action in all sectors, so as to reduce worldwide greenhouse gas emissions by about 45% by 2030 compared to 2010 and achieve net-zero emissions around 2050;

Are deeply concerned with the finding of the IPCC SR1.5 that implementing current NDCs is not consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

Endorse the *Talanoa Call for Action* presented at COP.24 and call on all Parties to the Paris Agreement to implement its provisions, including notably when developing NDCs and long term low emission strategies.

Urge all Parties to start, as soon as possible, with preparations for the submission by 2020 of enhanced NDCs and long term low emission strategies consistent with a trajectory towards carbon neutrality, and taking duly into account the outcome, inputs and outputs of the Talanoa Dialogue, including, in particular, the IPCC SR1.5.

Will include actions related to the ocean, including coastal and marine nature-based solutions, into their NDCs and their long term low emissions strategies

Look forward to the UN Climate Summit in 2019 as an important milestone towards raising ambition for achieving the Paris Agreement goals. Call on all Parties to the Agreement to present at the Summit their progress and future ambition with regards to the preparation of enhanced NDCs by 2020.

***Ocean energy and marine conservation***

Recommend to facilitate cost-effective development of renewable ocean energy, with the aim of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and for achieving the Paris Agreement objectives and the SDGs;

In this regard, call upon all to develop and implement short, mid and long term policy plans and strategies aiming at ensuring that the potential for ocean energy is fully captured, and to develop marine spatial plans that safeguard the biodiversity, resilience, connectivity and services of marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of local communities in that context.

Continue to support the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, for example by developing renewable energy roadmaps.

Recommend adopting long term visions or strategies regarding their seas and shores, in synergy with the Long Term Low Emissions Strategies required by the Paris Agreement;

***Climate change and international shipping***

Reaffirm that achieving the balance between emissions and removals of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century as required by the Paris Agreement requires urgent and ambitious action within the sector of international maritime transport.

Recall the commitments of the Tony De Brum Declaration, calling for urgent action in the international shipping sector to reduce GHG. Encourage States to join the High Ambition Coalition to be committed leaders in acting on climate change.

Encourage the IMO to adopt and implement GHG emission reduction measures before 2023, in order to help ensure that both the well below 2°C and the 1.5°c temperature goals can be met.

Encourage States, international organizations and the private sector to invest in research, development and deployment of innovative technologies, zero emission fuels and any other relevant actions and encourage capacity-building and technical cooperation where needed;

Encourage States to provide assistance for example via the Integrated Technical Cooperation Program of the IMO, in particular to developing countries, SIDS and LDCs, in implementing GHG emission reduction measures and consider how to address any disproportionately negative impacts thereof;

Call on the IMO to review its GHG strategy, including the reduction targets by 2023, taking into consideration IPCC findings, so as to secure a healthy future for the oceans, humanity and the planet and the survival of the most vulnerable countries;