UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE OCEAN

Aware that the World Ocean is part of the planet’s overall ecosystem and plays a role in regulating the climate, and that human beings, like all life on Earth, cannot live without its contribution and furthermore aware that without it, humanity would disappear;

Deploring the lack of compliance with and implementation of international law and United Nations General Assembly Resolutions by states and international organisations, whereas it is essential that law is implemented effectively, efficiently and in good faith not only by states and international organisations, but also by private individuals, for the benefit of all and future generations;

CONSIDERING, IN PARTICULAR,

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including notably its Article 10 establishing the right to privacy, which implies the right to live in a healthy and peaceful environment,

The Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, signed in Geneva on April 29th 1958,

The Convention on the High Seas, signed in Geneva on April 29th 1958,

The Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas, signed in Geneva on April 29th 1958,

The Convention on the Continental Shelf, signed in Geneva on April 29th 1958,

Resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, signed in Montego Bay on 10 December 1982,

The Final Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 5 to 16 June 1972),


The World Charter for Nature adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution A/RES/37/7 on 28 October 1982, in particular points 21 to 24,

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular points 21 to 24,

The 1963 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for the Realization of Peaceful Co-operation among States in the Field of Science and Cultural Co-operation,

The 1965 United Nations Conference on Transboundary Hydrological Co-operation,

The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

The 1972 Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 5 to 16 June 1972),

The Final Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, titled “The Future We Want” (20 to 22 June 2012);

Aware that the World Ocean is part of the planet’s overall ecosystem and plays a role in regulating the climate, and that human beings, like all life on Earth, cannot live without its contribution and furthermore aware that without it, humanity would disappear;

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The Final Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, titled “The Future We Want” (20 to 22 June 2012);

We, the Citizens of the Ocean, declare the following:

Article 1. The existing international law related to the Ocean and the environment is hereby reaffirmed and integrated into domestic law. Its enforcement falls within the jurisdiction of States and international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental. It is for all to use. It shall evolve and be developed in order to ensure the effective and sustainable protection of the Ocean.

Article 2. States and international organisations must take all necessary measures to end pollution, illegal and/or disguised exploration and/or violating the precautionary principle, poaching as well as illegal, undeclared, or unregulated fishing. Consequently, the Citizens of the Ocean request systematic criminal prosecution of ocean poachers, of entities, whether legal or not, generating pollution, and of entities enabling illegal and/or clandestine exploration, or violating the precautionary principle.

Article 3. The extension to the World Ocean of the principle of economic and financial non-appropriation.

Article 4. Every Living Being has the right to breathe clean air that is conducive to supporting life on Earth.

Article 5. Every Living Being has the right to the Ocean decontamination, and to the complete halt to all pollution of the Ocean.

Article 6. Every Living Being has the right to live in its natural habitat, and to the sustainable use of sea resources, effectively protected against industrial and/or economic greed.

Article 7. Every Human Being has the right to be informed, regarding in particular exploration or projects, installations, drilling, or research that leads, or might lead, to the destruction and/or abusive exploitation of the Ocean.

Article 8. States, international and non-governmental organisations, and Citizens of the Ocean shall commit promoting the preservation of the diversity and continuation of life on Earth. Consequently, We, the Citizens of the Ocean, wish that the Ocean is recognised by the international community and its representative bodies as part of the Commons.