

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE OCEAN ¹

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;

Deploing 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;

Based on the principle of the Commons, which promotes the idea of collective governance of spaces and natural resources;

Considering the Ocean as part of the Commons, and therefore, although humans beings make use of it, they do not own it, and no part of it may be appropriated by anyone or anything;

Asserting that making the transition towards a new model that respects life, resources, and ecosystems is vital to the survival of humanity;

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 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, signed in New York on July 28th 1994,

The Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea signed on December 10th 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks signed in New York on 4 August 1995,

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 Antarctic Treaty signed on December 1st 1959 and its Additional Protocol of 4 October 1991,

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (3 to 14 June 1992),

The Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution A/RES/55/2 on September 8th 2000, in particular section IV, The Final Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, titled "The Future We Want" (20 to 22 June 2012);

Acknowledging and informing about the existence of these legal documents without subscribing to all of the principles they establish,

Recalling since these texts are not self-executory they confer no specific rights to individuals,

Calling for developments in the applicable law to ensure the effective and sustainable protection of the Ocean and the planet.

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.