



HIGH LEVEL PANEL *for*
**A SUSTAINABLE
OCEAN ECONOMY**

**High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy
Call to Ocean-Based Climate Action**

We, the members of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy,¹ represent approximately 30 percent of the world's coastlines, 30 percent of the world's exclusive economic zones, 20 percent of the world's ocean catch, and 20 percent of the world's shipping fleet.

The ocean is the life source of our planet and vital for healthy human societies and a thriving world economy. A healthy ocean is also critical to achieving our global climate change targets. The IPCC² Special Reports on *Global Warming of 1.5C* and *The Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* alert the world to the stark risks that unabated climate change is presenting to ocean health and human wellbeing. The IPBES³ Global Assessment Report stressed the urgency to address both climate change and biodiversity loss and emphasised the importance of the ocean to human wellbeing. We are concerned about the vulnerability of low-lying densely populated coastal communities and cities, particularly in small island developing states and least developed countries and recognize their specific needs and special circumstances.

The health of the ocean, and the livelihoods and economies that depend on it, requires the world to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. A sustainable ocean-based economy can play an essential role in this much needed emissions reduction, while providing jobs, supporting food security, sustaining biological diversity and enhancing resilience.

We, the members of the High Level Panel, urge all actors to join us in accelerating progress on the following key ocean-based climate actions to support the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. **Invest in Nature-Based Climate Solutions.** Restore, protect and manage coastal and marine ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes, macroalgae and reefs, to enhance their ability to sequester and store carbon, adapt to the effects of climate change, and improve coastal resilience. In doing so, apply effective science and ecosystem-based management tools, including establishment of well managed and climate smart marine protected areas and other area-based management tools, and develop innovative financial instruments.
2. **Harness Ocean-Based Renewable Energy.** Scale up offshore and ocean-based renewable energy, including wind, wave, tidal, current and solar, to meet future energy demand and become cost-competitive.
3. **Decarbonize Ocean Industries.** Invest in the solutions needed to support rapid decarbonization of ocean industries, including shipping and marine transport, port infrastructure and operations, fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

¹ Canada was fully involved in the development of this Call to Action. While joining the other members of the High Level Panel in expressing support for this document, Canada wishes to note that the Canadian Government is currently holding a general election and is not currently in a position to sign the document.

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

³ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



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- 4. Secure Sustainable Food for the Future.** Promote sustainable, safe, equitable, resilient and low-carbon sources of food from the ocean to feed and improve the nutrition of present and future generations, including mitigating food insecurity.
- 5. Advance the Deployment of Carbon Capture and Storage.** Reduce barriers for carbon capture and storage below the seabed through international collaboration, including mapping the storage potential of the sub-seabed geological formations.
- 6. Expand Ocean Observation and Research.** Scale up support for integrated local-to-global observation and research to better inform decision-makers on the observed and projected impacts of climate change, warming and acidification on the ocean, and the role of the ocean in the global carbon cycle. Ensure such data and information is locally relevant and open and accessible to all in accordance with the national laws and regulations which govern its usage.

We recognize the need for cohesive and accelerated ocean action in upcoming global events - including the UN Climate Conference (the Blue COP25), UN Ocean Conference, UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

The threat that climate change poses to the ocean is a common challenge that requires collective action. This Call to Ocean-Based Climate Action provides a pathway to a low carbon, climate resilient future that secures a healthy ocean and human wellbeing. We urge all actors to join and take action.

Scott Morrison
Prime Minister of Australia

Uhuru Kenyatta
President of Kenya

Sebastián Piñera
President of Chile

Andrés Manuel López Obrador
President of Mexico

Frank Bainimarama
Prime Minister of Fiji

Dr. Hage Geingob
President of Namibia

Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
President of Ghana

Erna Solberg
Prime Minister of Norway

Joko 'Jokowi' Widodo
President of Indonesia

Tommy Remengesau, Jr
President of Palau

Andrew Michael Holness
Prime Minister of Jamaica

António Costa
Prime Minister of Portugal

Shinzō Abe
Prime Minister of Japan