

2026 Communiqué



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

Accelerating Action for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

As leaders of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, we are united by the shared conviction that the ocean is a powerful connector. It joins our nations together through shared responsibilities, opportunities and risks. It sustains biodiversity, food security, livelihoods and coastal economies, while regulating the global climate.

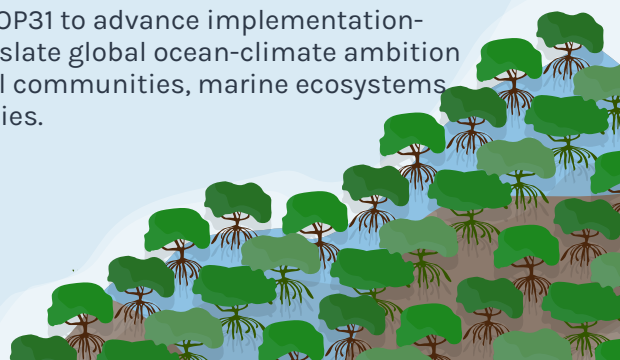
At a time of increasing geopolitical uncertainty, the ocean remains one of the few domains where international cooperation and multilateralism continue to deliver shared prosperity, peace and resilience.

Through frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), and the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), countries have established shared principles and mechanisms for the protection and sustainable use of the ocean globally. These recognise that ocean governance, climate action and biodiversity protection are inseparable and depend on collective action.

The value of multilateralism has never been so evident. The ocean is on the front line of climate change, facing warming, acidification, deoxygenation, sea-level rise with intensifying impacts on ecosystems and people. Meeting these challenges will require renewed commitment to international cooperation and accelerated action to secure a sustainable ocean economy for future generations.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Belém (COP30), under the Brazilian Presidency, gave the ocean greater prominence within the climate agenda, including through the Blue Package under the Action Agenda and the Call of Belém for the Climate. Together with the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue, these outcomes provide a strong foundation to build from.

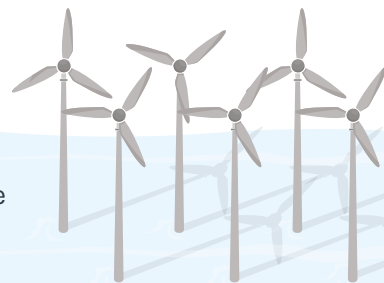
On the road to COP31 in Antalya, we will build on this “ocean of cooperation” to drive coordinated delivery of ocean-based climate solutions, mobilise finance, and ensure benefits reach those most exposed to climate impacts. In this context, we welcome the opportunity presented by COP31 to advance implementation-oriented partnerships that translate global ocean-climate ambition with practical action for coastal communities, marine ecosystems and sustainable ocean economies.



Our shared commitment

As members of the Ocean Panel, we will strengthen integration of ocean-based climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience actions across national policies, climate plans and funding decisions, tailored to national circumstances.

Achieving this requires cooperation across borders, sectors, and institutions to accelerate tangible delivery and ensure that benefits reach those on the front-line – including Small Island Developing States, Indigenous and local communities, artisanal fishers, women and youth.



The opportunity of COP31

The Pacific Pre-COP and COP31 must mark the moment when the ocean moves from the margins of climate discussions to the centre of global climate action and implementation. It must demonstrate that international cooperation on ocean-climate action can produce tangible outcomes that generate broader co-benefits including food security, biodiversity conservation, resilient livelihoods and sustainable economic development.

To help make COP31 an inflection point for ocean-climate delivery, we will focus on four priorities:



- 1) We will work to strengthen the role of ocean solutions across climate action, recognising the ocean as a cross-cutting enabler of climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and sustainable development. We acknowledge the critical role of the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrass meadows and salt marshes as effective nature-based solutions.



- 2) We will advance Sustainable Ocean Plans as practical frameworks that help countries to align ocean-based climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience priorities with national development objectives, and identify priority actions and financing pipelines. We call on other countries to join the 100% Alliance for Sustainable Ocean Management and commit to joining us in sustainably managing 100% of their ocean areas under national jurisdiction.



- 3) We will call for finance from all sources that is faster, more accessible, and fit for purpose for ocean and coastal resilience, including nature-based solutions, coastal blue carbon ecosystems, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable ocean livelihoods. This should be supported by strengthening institutional capacity to access, manage and sustain delivery of blue finance across developing countries, in particular Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries.



- 4) We recognise the Blue NDC Implementation Taskforce, advanced by Brazil and France at COP30, as a practical vehicle to help countries translate ambition into action by strengthening political leadership and coordination, mobilising technical support, and accelerating finance for proven ocean-climate solutions that contribute to climate and biodiversity objectives. We will also support accelerating climate-resilient Sustainable Ocean Planning in small island developing states, based on initiatives established at the Island States Ocean Summit 2026 in Japan.

We invite all governments and partners to treat the ocean as a central element of climate action. COP31 must build on the efforts made at COP30 and the longstanding recognition of the ocean's role in supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement. By strengthening multilateral cooperation, advancing integrated and inclusive ocean planning and accelerating ocean-based climate action, we can build resilience, advance sustainable development, and deliver solutions at the required scale for people, climate, and the planet.

