



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Decenio de las Naciones Unidas
de las Ciencias Oceánicas
para el Desarrollo Sostenible



**Parliamentarians
for Global Action**

4TH CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR THE OCEANS (CAP-OCEANS)

46TH ANNUAL FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

26-27 MARCH 2026

MEXICO CITY PLAN OF ACTION

We, the Members of Parliament from all regions of the world, participating in the 46th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the Fourth Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the Ocean (CAP-Oceans),

Express gratitude to the Senate of Mexico for their contributions to this assembly, to the panelists and fellow parliamentarians for sharing their expertise and experience, to funders and institutional partners for the invaluable support, and to all stakeholders for their tireless efforts towards our common goal of protecting the ocean;

Recognize that these deliberations took place within the framework of PGA's action-driven and results-oriented Campaign for the Protection of the Ocean, and therefore adopt the following Plan of Action:

On protecting the ocean for all people of present and future generations

Recalling the commitments made in the [2019 Praia Plan of Action](#), the [2021 Belmopan Plan of Action](#), and the [2023 Victoria Plan of Action](#) for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development;

Recognizing the inextricable link between the health of the ocean and the health of our planet, and, therefore, to the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, as well as to global food security, climate stability, and the well-being of present and future generations;

Affirming that marine areas beyond national jurisdiction constitute nearly two-thirds of the world's ocean and provide essential ecological, economic, social, cultural, and scientific benefits, forming part of the common heritage of humankind;

Acknowledging the growing scientific consensus that protecting and effectively managing at least 30 percent of the global ocean by 2030 is essential to safeguarding biodiversity, strengthening

ecosystem resilience, and sustaining the vital services the ocean provides to humanity, and noting that this objective has been formally endorsed by governments worldwide through the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), which commits countries to conserve at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, coastal, and marine areas by 2030 through effectively managed and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

Further recognizing that this global commitment has been reinforced through regional initiatives and legislative action, including efforts by the [European Parliament](#), the European Union, the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#) (ASEAN), and the [Economic Community of West African States](#) (ECOWAS), which are advancing regional cooperation to expand protected and conserved marine areas;

Highlighting that despite increasing global commitments, *less than 10 percent of the global ocean is currently designated as marine protected areas, and only 3 percent is considered highly or fully protected*, demonstrating that the international community must significantly accelerate efforts in order to achieve the global objective of protecting at least 30 percent of the ocean by 2030;

Note with concern the continued threats to marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, marine pollution, destructive practices like bottom trawling, the climate crisis, and emerging pressures from human activity on the deep seabed;

Reaffirming the importance of the legal framework established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and their resources;

Highlighting the historic significance of *the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* (BBNJ Agreement, commonly referred to as the UN High Seas Treaty), and welcoming its entry into force on 17 January 2026, which provides the legal tools necessary to establish marine protected areas on the high seas and significantly accelerate progress toward the global 30 by 30 objective – as well as significance of the Third and final Preparatory Commission for the Agreement taking place in the United Nations, which run in parallel to PGA’s CAP-Oceans;

Recognizing the important contributions of civil society and international partnerships, including the High Seas Alliance of which PGA is a member, in advancing awareness and cooperation to secure the adoption and implementation of the High Seas Treaty;

Welcoming the leadership of countries participating in initiatives such as the BBNJ First Movers, which are demonstrating early commitment to the ratification and effective implementation of the High Seas Treaty and to advancing ambitious ocean protection measures;

Emphasizing the essential role of parliamentarians in advancing effective ocean governance through legislation, oversight, and budgetary authority, and in fostering cooperation across political parties and national borders;

Underscoring that the international commitment to multilateralism and adherence to international law for the effective protection of the ocean requires collaboration across governments, parliaments, international organizations, scientists, civil society, and local communities, and must be grounded in respect for human rights, equity, and inclusive participation.

Resolve to:

- **Promote the timely accession or ratification, as appropriate, as well as the effective implementation of the UN High Seas Treaty** as an effective tool for ocean governance, including by aiming to outline a plan by 2027 that engages all political parties and works with our governments to adopt necessary domestic legislation and allocate adequate resources to implement the Agreement.
- **Support the establishment and effective co-management of marine protected areas** both domestically and in international waters, contributing to the global objective of protecting at least 30 percent of the ocean by 2030, and increasing national marine protection by at least 5 percent by 2028.
- **Advance science-based, precautionary, and ecosystem-based approaches to ocean governance**, ensuring that environmental impact assessments, and the best available scientific knowledge, guide decisions regarding activities that may impact marine biodiversity.
- **Promote inclusive and equitable ocean governance**, incorporating the leadership and stewardship of Indigenous Peoples, women, small-scale and artisanal fishers, coastal communities, and youth, whose knowledge, experience, and traditional practices are essential to the effective protection and sustainable management of marine ecosystems.
- **Support participatory and co-management approaches** in the design, implementation, and monitoring of marine protected areas, ensuring that local communities and rights-holders are meaningfully involved in decision-making processes and benefit from conservation efforts.
- **Strengthen parliamentary oversight, transparency, and accountability** in ocean governance, including through monitoring national progress toward achieving SDG 14 and the global 30 by 30 objective through regularly published reports, incorporating the

outcomes of the Third Preparatory Commission to the High Seas Treaty, and ensuring participation at upcoming sessions of the Treaty's Conference of States Parties (COP).

- **Foster cross-party parliamentary cooperation and international collaboration** by taking actions and organizing activities through PGA's cross-party global network, recognizing that effective ocean protection requires coordinated action across political systems, regions, and sectors.
- **Promote multilateral cooperation and partnerships**, including with civil society organizations, scientific institutions, regional bodies, and initiatives such as the High Seas Alliance, to accelerate implementation of global ocean commitments.
- **Strengthen the role of parliamentarians as champions for ocean protection**, including through knowledge-sharing and parliamentary cooperation in parliamentary committees and within networks such as Parliamentarians for Global Action, to accelerate global progress towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 14, protecting at least 30 percent of the ocean by 2030 for people of present and future generations, and upholding the precautionary principle to ensure responsible stewardship of high seas marine biodiversity.

Inform PGA's Secretariat within 6 months (by 1 October 2026) on progress made towards these resolutions.¹

¹ PGA's 4th CAP-Oceans is endorsed by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as a Decade Activity. Use of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development logo by a non-UN entity does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations of such entity, its products or services, or of its planned activities. For more information please access: <https://oceandecade.org/legal/>