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2021-2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

2024 RIO ACTION STATEMENT

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The Foundations Dialogue of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 ('Ocean Decade') is an informal, global network of community, corporate, and private philanthropic funders working together to support the Ocean Decade vision for "the science we need for the ocean we want," and thus contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and relevant UN processes. This statement is based on discussions between participants at the Fourth Foundations Dialogue Meeting hosted by the Botocario Foundation, held in Rio de Janeiro in September 2024. It builds on discussions and outcomes of the previous Foundations Dialogue Meetings, including the 2022 Bouknadel and 2023 Monaco Statements.

The 2024 Rio Action Statement represents a powerful stride forward for the Ocean Decade Foundations Dialogue. Recognizing that achieving "the science we need for the ocean we want" requires a substantial commitment of financial resources, the Dialogue is taking concrete steps to mobilize funding and ensure its equitable distribution. By embedding the values of inclusivity, equity, and diversity into all aspects of its work, the Dialogue is building a foundation for truly collaborative and impactful ocean science. Furthermore, by prioritizing strategic communications and engagement with society, the Dialogue aims to ensure that the benefits of ocean science are accessible to all. Through these concerted efforts, the Dialogue is poised and committed to making a significant contribution to the Ocean Decade's ambitious goals and, ultimately, a more sustainable ocean for all.

After this, the fourth year of the Foundations Dialogue, the members:

- **Recognize** the significant progress of the Decade and Foundations Dialogue and the imperative of transforming principles and commitments to action;
- **Recognize** the extensive participation that was carried out as part of the Vision 2030 process to guide forthcoming priorities of the Ocean Decade as captured in The Barcelona Statement and the Vision 2030 Outcomes Report and associated series of White Papers;
- **Recognize** the opportunities provided by upcoming international convenings including, but not limited to, the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference, the 30th and 31st Conferences of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the 16th and 17th Conferences of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference;
- **Understand** that challenges in ensuring adequate resources are available for the implementation of the Ocean Decade remain and require strong collaboration amongst philanthropies, and between philanthropies and other actors;
- **Recognize** the importance of ensuring justice, inclusivity, diversity, and equity in the work of the Foundations Dialogue; and
- **Recognize** that partnerships and collaborations – many of which have formed through the Foundations Dialogue – are key to our goal of supporting the science we need for the ocean we want, and that there is a strong commitment and support to develop future collaborations.

To this end, the meeting focused on developing actions and initiatives in four Action Areas that the Foundations Dialogue identified as important initiatives to support and pursue, either as a group, in smaller groups, bilaterally, or as individual organizations.

ACTION AREA 1: NEW FUNDING INITIATIVES

- By June 2025, **provide** in-kind support, expertise, and funding to support the development, launch, and use of OceanMatcher, an initiative developed through the Foundations Dialogue to facilitate connections between endorsed Decade Actions and Programmes requiring resources and relevant funders.
- Develop** and **support** new opportunities and initiatives for co-branded Calls for Decade Actions and joint funding proposals to support existing or new Decade Actions.

ACTION AREA 2: BETTER PRACTICES FOR INVESTMENT IN ACTIONABLE OCEAN SCIENCE

- By the Fifth Foundations Dialogue in September 2025, **develop** a short position paper on 'values' for supporting inclusive and actionable ocean science and socialize widely within peer groups. **Ensure** the values framework includes co-design and emphasizes equity and inclusion by integrating principles of diversity in ocean science. **Engage** underrepresented communities, including Indigenous peoples, coastal communities, and small-island nations, to understand their perspectives on ocean science.
- By the end of 2025, building on this work, **develop** a living set of guidelines for grantmakers and grantees on how to act on these values and provide associated skills development.

ACTION AREA 3: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

- Promote** a shared understanding of what strategic communications is, and the value of investing in it and adopting best practice to restore humanity's relationship with the ocean, as identified in the Decade's Challenge 10 White Paper.
- Support** the global community of ocean communicators to access resources, guidance, and training. At the UN Ocean Conference in 2025, create opportunities for practitioners to connect and for best practice to be shared, for example through supporting the roll-out of the Advancing Strategic Ocean Communications global guidance.
- Increase** the use of data and insight to improve ocean communications. By June 2025, generate and share evidence on the impacts of strategic communications approaches, including through the Global Ocean and Society Survey rollout, to gather nationally representative data.
- Identify** and jointly implement collective ambitious, transformative, and groundbreaking strategic communications initiatives to advance the vision and mission of the Ocean Decade.
- Prioritize** inclusive communications approaches by ensuring underrepresented voices are involved and funded to help shape the ocean science narrative, and ensuring the content is accessible and culturally relevant to different communities.
- Align** strategic communications initiatives around key milestones, messages, and events between 2024-2027 and beyond.

ACTION AREA 4: COLLABORATION ACROSS PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVES

- Undertake** joint learning and informally exchange good practices in support of ocean science that reflects the principles of the Ocean Decade.
- By the end of 2025, using OceanMatcher, **develop** a live map of ocean-related philanthropic areas of interest for Foundations Dialogues members.
- Document** examples of joint initiatives and partnerships between Foundations to encourage collaboration, encourage new members to join the Foundations Dialogue, and showcase the benefits of the Foundations Dialogue.
- Promote** the Foundations Dialogue and the Ocean Decade within professional networks, and activate one-to-one connections with new Foundations to bring them to the group.

STRENGTHENED OPERATION OF THE FOUNDATIONS DIALOGUE

- By the Fifth Foundations Dialogue in September 2025, **develop** a communications strategy for communicating the work of the Foundations Dialogue.
- Develop** a working plan with clear indicators to expand the Foundations Dialogue's impact and reach by the Fifth Foundations Dialogue in September 2025.
- Secure** additional resources before the end of 2024 to support the work of the Foundations Dialogue, including Secretariat support for its effective functioning.

SIGNATORIES:



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