



## UNFCCC COP 26 Glasgow, UK

### Concept Note Ocean and Coastal Zones Action Event: *Ocean solutions for a resilient, net-zero future*

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

5 November 2021

Organised by the Oceans and Coastal Zones Thematic Group, the Marrakech Partnership and the High-Level Climate Champions.

## MP Ocean & Coastal Zones: Ocean solutions for a resilient, net-zero future

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| <p><b>Description</b></p> | <p>This High Level Meeting will be the main multi-stakeholder ocean meeting at COP26, gathering Heads of States, local communities, business leaders, UN organisations, scientific institutions and NGO leaders.</p>  |
| <p><b>Objectives</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By convening key representatives across relevant stakeholders (governments, finance, ocean-based industries, local communities, scientists, IGOs and NGOs), the session will aim to highlight the potential of ocean-based climate solutions, based on lessons learned on the ground and the latest science, to contribute to a net-zero and nature-positive future, while enhancing adaptation and resilience-building of ecosystems and coastal communities. Participants will be invited to share their experiences, actions and strategies to drive sustainable system change in their respective fields (most notably decarbonized shipping, ocean renewable energy, resilient aquatic food systems, coastal and marine nature-based solutions, and sustainable seafood). This session will also discuss opportunities to accelerate action and de-risk mechanisms for the transition via public and private initiatives, and public-private partnerships. Moreover, the session will explore how to substantially increase ocean science to inform sound policy making, drive investment decisions and steer sustainable business actions.</li> <li>• Governments will showcase the ocean-based solutions they included in their new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), in line with the Paris Agreement. This will highlight the value of incorporating ocean-based solutions in NDCs, including co-benefits, such as food security, enhanced adaptive capacity, job creation, and more, further encouraging States to also incorporate ocean-based solutions. For instance, among the 94 countries that have currently submitted their new or updated NDC, 54 have included coastal and marine Nature-based Solutions (e.g., protecting and restoring coastal blue carbon ecosystems, coastal zones management and MPAs, climate-proofed fisheries and aquaculture). Participants will further reflect on how to continue scaling-up ocean-based mitigation and adaptation action to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement (ex: including quantifiable ocean-based solution related targets in the next cycle of NDCs).</li> <li>• Similarly, non-state actors, including entities from the private sector, will share concrete examples of ocean-based climate solutions, delivering on</li> </ul> |



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|                             | <p>the Race to Zero, Race to Resilience, and new commitments to increase investments in ocean solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By connecting governments, communities, finance institutions and solutions-providers, the session will pave the way to accelerate the development of a wide spectrum of sustainable ocean-based climate solutions to halve global emissions by 2030 and build an equitable and resilient world by 2050. It will generate an “enabling ecosystem” to create the necessary ambition loop to deliver the needed breakthroughs in ocean-climate actions. Building on the Ocean Action Pathway, the session will strive to unlock key enablers to scale-up ocean-based climate solutions: wide-ranging political and societal support; commitments to a sustainable and equitable well-managed ocean; and increased public and private investments.</li> <li>• Given that by as early as 2025 more than 70% of the urban population is projected to live in a coastal city, this session will also address how coastal cities and territories are preparing to face more frequent extreme events linked to sea-level rise.</li> </ul>                         |
| <p><b>*Participants</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Governments and local community leaders</li> <li>○ Ocean-based industries and companies, including smallholders and small medium-sized enterprises</li> <li>○ Financial institutions</li> <li>○ UN entities</li> <li>○ NGOs and other international organisations</li> <li>○ Scientific institutes</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Key messages</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>healthy and biodiverse ocean</b> provides abundant and nutritious food, ensures wellbeing and preserves cultural heritage, and supports sustainable livelihoods of billions of people – as well as mitigation and adaptation solutions for climate change. These solutions must therefore be more widely reflected in <b>national climate commitments</b>, strategies and implementation plans, particularly in NDCs and NAPs under the UNFCCC. In that regard, <b>coastal and marine Nature-based Solutions</b> (including blue carbon) have a major role to play.</li> <li>• Creating and implementing the <b>enabling conditions for action</b> will be essential to enhance sustainable, inclusive, ocean-based climate solutions (including NbS, sustainable seafood, ocean renewable energy and decarbonised shipping) moving forward. <b>Science and finance</b> are two key enablers, and both scientific knowledge (including traditional and local knowledge) and financial flows must substantially increase to more adequately and equitably boost and inform ocean action, including through adequate policies and management frameworks</li> </ul> |



- Putting **sustainability and equity at the heart of ocean management** is essential for **protection, production and prosperity that benefits both nature and people**. As a result, it is necessary to further develop inclusive, science-based ocean management to tap into the full potential of ocean solutions, while better protecting the ocean and restoring its health and productivity.