



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE**

1381st meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

7-8 July 2022

**Statement by Portugal on the
2nd United Nations Ocean Conference**

Mr. Chair,

Co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, the Second United Nations Ocean Conference took place in Lisbon from the 27th of June to the 1st of July under the motto “Our Ocean, Our Future, Our Responsibility”.

It gathered Heads of State, Government, and high-level representatives from 159 States participating in the Conference, as well as many relevant UN agencies and IGO’s at the highest level, and 1178 NGOs and other partners.

The Ocean Conference concluded with the adoption of an action-oriented Political Declaration to save the Ocean from existing and future threats, including marine pollution, harmful fishing practices, biodiversity loss, acidification, and the impact of climate change.



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Participants committed to take a comprehensive science-and innovation-based set of actions on an urgent basis. For this, we believe the Ocean Conference marked a transformative moment to reverse the decline of ocean health and to ensure the sustainable use of ocean resources, for present and future generations.

The Conference was a reminder of how only by the means of effective multilateralism – in words and deeds – and by upholding an international rules-based order built on dialogue and cooperation will the international community have a chance of successfully addressing the existential challenges Humanity faces. The health of our planet and humanity’s future are inseparable. Both are in serious danger.

Mr. Chair,

Please allow me to conclude by quoting the words of UN Secretary General António Guterres: “sadly we have taken the Ocean for granted, and now we face an Ocean emergency. We must take action and turn the tide”

I thank you.

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