



BRUSSELS DECLARATION

“CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND OCEANS PRESERVATION”

Considering the historical proportions of climate change and its impact on the Oceans, Participating Parties:

Article 1

Agree to declare a State of Climate Emergency on their respective territories, within 1 (one) month of the signature of the present Declaration.

Article 2

Commit to develop, adopt and implement urgent policy plans and strategies to limit the increase in global average temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This is to be achieved through transitioning to a zero GHG economy by 2025 and immediately phasing out fossil fuels, including via public subsidies.

Article 3

Recognize that climate change is the leading cause of ocean acidification and therefore commit to tackling its root causes as a matter of emergency; Parties further recognize that safeguarding biodiversity and resilience of the ocean's ecosystems is of utmost priority, and therefore commit to actively tackling overfishing and plastic pollution; Participating parties also commit to developing coordinated marine spatial planning with focus on sustainable livelihoods of local ocean-based communities, before the end of 2020.

Article 4

Agree to undertake urgent and ambitious emission reductions within the sector of international maritime transport (shipping), in line with the Tony de Brum Declaration by the end of 2020. Parties recognize the urgent need to reduce international shipping as a stepping stone towards more localized and sustainable production and consumption, and commit to working towards its effective reduction, starting in 2020.

Article 5

Commit to urging other states, international organizations and the private sector to undertake urgent and ambitious measures to move their economies or businesses towards zero GHG emissions by 2025, and put in place measures for the robust protection and re-establishment of ocean ecosystems.

Article 6

Each Participating Party shall notify the other participating parties of:

- (a) all measures taken by the end of 2019;
- (b) any other act, measures or declaration relating to climate change.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Declaration.

Done in Brussels, the 19th of February 2019, in English, French and Dutch, three texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of Government of Belgium.

The Government of Belgium shall transmit certified copies to each Participating Party.

Done in Brussels, 19 February 2019

The Participating Parties: