

**WORLD OCEAN NETWORK APPEAL TO MOBILISE THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR
ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Considering that oceans play vital roles in global climate balance and marine ecosystems are critical to the well-being of all life on Earth - no matter where we live, everyday human actions impact the oceans that give us life.

Realizing the unequivocal science underscoring threats to ocean systems from climate change and their catastrophic consequences on oceans and global systems;

Recognizing the fact that effects of CO₂ will be felt for decades, even after excess human-caused CO₂ emissions stop, the planet will experience the results of climate disruption for generations. If no action is taken to address human emissions of greenhouse gasses, the consequences could cost as much as 20% of world GDP;

Recalling that education and awareness is critical to ensure public action in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies as agreed during various international forums including New Delhi Work Programme on Article 6 of the UNFCCC which includes, education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation, contributing to meeting the objective of the Convention.

Reaffirming, the commitment of the world ocean leaders at the World Ocean Conference at Manado, Indonesia in May 2009, to implement the long-term conservation, sustainable management and use of marine living resources through the wide application of a precautionary approach, and to fulfil internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in areas relevant to human health, food security, poverty alleviation, and disaster-preparedness that are related to the marine environment and, in so doing, strengthening the global partnership for development.

We, the members of the World Ocean Network representing over 400 aquariums, science centres, education centres, zoos and other education and public awareness organizations and institutions, appeal to the world leaders assembled at the historic occasion of the COP15 at Copenhagen:

- To support, promote, facilitate, develop and implement public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects at the national and, as appropriate at sub-regional, regional and international levels.
- To facilitate public access to information on climate change and its effects, and to promote public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and in developing adequate responses.
- To take into cognizance in all the policy planning for climate change, that oceans and their resources are vital to all humanity and everyone has the right to benefit from them and also has a responsibility to look after them today and in the future.
- To consider the vulnerability of coastal and island communities to adverse impacts of climate change and devise national, regional and global strategies to mitigate the impacts on sensitive and vulnerable regions and communities.
- To provide adequate financial, technical and logistic support to education and public awareness programmes in order to make the public prepared towards adapting to adverse impacts of climate change.
- To integrate sustainability concerns into national development strategies in line with the objectives of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

Save Oceans to Save Climate!

Protect Oceans for Cooling the Planet!

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