



The Mindelo Declaration

23 January 2023

At The Ocean Race Summit Mindelo, Cabo Verde, on January 23rd 2023, over 300 representatives of government, science, NGOs, sailing teams, businesses and other national and international institutions gathered for a discussion on ocean health and concluded in the following declaration;

Expressing gratitude for the presence and key note addresses of the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres, Prime Minister António Costa of Portugal, Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva, former President of the Seychelles Danny Faure, and former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden Isabella Lövin;

Thanking the GEOMAR Helmholtz-Centre for Ocean Research and Imar for hosting, and The Ocean Race for organising, The Ocean Race Summit Mindelo;

Acknowledging the unique knowledge and expertise provided by the speakers and panellists at The Ocean Race Summit Mindelo;

Recognising the unique status of the Ocean for all life on Earth, **stressing** that there will be no healthy planet without a healthy ocean;

Reinforcing the need for immediate action, by all actors and in all sectors, to protect and restore the health and wellbeing of the Ocean;

Stressing the need for an ever increasing effort in gathering scientific data about the Ocean, welcoming the unique efforts of the data gathering made by the sailors taking part in The Ocean Race;

Desiring to promote mutual interest through cooperation in the field of marine education, particularly in ocean protection and preservation;

Stressing the importance of Ocean literacy programmes aimed for youth, the general public and decision makers in politics and business, **welcoming** educational efforts from sports and other institutions;

Recognising the role of sport in general and ocean racing in particular in working towards restoring a balanced relationship between people and the Ocean;

Recognising the Ocean provides fifty percent of the world's oxygen, sequesters carbon dioxide and regulates climate, and is a source of food and livelihood, providing jobs and



socioeconomic support for billions of people, and that many of the present economic activities and practices related to the Ocean is unsustainable;

Underlining that the inclusion and respect for diverse values, knowledge and practises, including many Oceanic and Indigenous peoples worldviews, such as those of Cabo Verde, can advance equity, justice and sustainability in the blue economy while preserving the health of ocean;

Stressing that the Ocean has the inherent right to exist, thrive, and regenerate its vital cycles, to integral health, diversity, and restoration and is revered by many as a source of spiritual and cultural sustenance with whom we have responsibilities to respect and care for;

Underlining the need for a shared vision of the interconnected relationship humankind has with the Ocean and close cooperation across global society at large including national and local governments, non governmental and sport organisations, faith based organisations, foundations, and the private sector;

Welcoming and supporting the call to action towards a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights and the global movement to advance a developed ethical and moral foundation for the relation between humankind and the ocean;

Urging upon all nations of the planet to recognise the inherent rights and intrinsic value of the ocean, and to support a future decision on a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights; and

Requesting the United Nations to include this declaration in the preparations and agenda for the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference and in the Summit of the Future 2024.