

**ANNEX**

**WORLD MARITIME DAY 2025  
"Our Ocean – Our Obligation – Our Opportunity"**

**A message from Arsenio Dominguez  
Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization**

The ocean sustains life on Earth as we know it. It allows us to breathe and regulate our climate.

The ocean brings food to our table, connects people across continents and provides global blue ways for the ships which transport 80% of world trade.

But our ocean is under threat. Plastic pollution, rising temperatures, acidification, overfishing. Our oceans are struggling to keep up with human pressure.

The ocean's decline is not a coincidence. It is driven by human activities, however, that also means that we have the power to reverse it. It is our obligation to work collaboratively to reduce pollution, protect marine life and shift to sustainable habits.

Protecting and restoring the ocean is not just a duty. It is our opportunity to build a healthier planet, stronger economies and a safer future for generations to come.

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