



Elements of Youth Declarations for the Ocean

**to be presented at the opening of the 50th
Anniversary of the IOC/UNESCO,**

on World Oceans Day, June 8, 2010

In 1998, in the framework of the International Year of the Ocean, young people issued a declaration referring to the UNESCO Ocean Charter on the occasion of the « Sea Your Future » event in Lisbon Expo98.

Since then close to 800 young people have taken part in national, regional and international Youth Forums and Parliaments, organised with help of World Ocean Network and by World Ocean Network.

In the last years, the First International Youth Ocean Parliament was organised with International Ocean Institute at the Malta House of Parliament in 2007, and regional groups of young people gathered in Europe, Indian Ocean French speaking islands and East Asia.

Other Youth Forums are already planned in 2011 and 2012, in the French Caribbean Islands and in South Africa.

The text below is a collection of extracts from declarations by Youth Forums that World Ocean Network organised or helped to organise.

Reference texts:

- ❖ *From Youth Ocean Parliament
Final Declaration
"Sato-Umi
Our Link with the Ocean
Our Pledge to the Ocean"
Pacem in Maribus XXXII, La Valette, Malta, November 2007*

- ❖ *From the European Youth Oceans Forum
Final Declaration
Blue Planet Forum at the European Union Committee of the Regions, Brussels, Belgium,
November 2007*

- ❖ *From the "Sea Your Future" Project
European Youth Commitment
European Science Week, Expo 98, Lisbon, Portugal, August 1998*

- ❖ *From the First French Overseas Youth Parliament,
Summary report,
La Réunion Island, Indian Ocean, May 2009*

- ❖ *From the Second East Asian Seas Youth Forum
Youth Statement
2nd East Asian Seas Congress, Manila, Philippines, November 2009*

OUR DECLARATION

We are in agreement that the ocean has gone well beyond its operating capacity.

We deem that unless multilateral action is taken, not only will there be no progress, but that the state of the ocean and the marine environment shall deteriorate further.

We believe in the rights of the future generations, and that it is our duty to protect and ensure these rights.

We also think that it's very important to create:

- Links between different groups of people: scientists, policy makers and citizens;
- Links between inland and coastline people: make people aware that the pollution in the big cities has an impact on the ocean environment; it is not always because of the fisherman or the seaman;
- Links between countries living by the same seas.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to develop education

We ask for:

- An access to education and formative experiences in learning, targeted towards raising awareness about the global and local issues of sustainable development;
- A true commitment by governments and education policy makers to develop and enhance programs for formal and informal citizenship education, with a special focus on the protection of the natural environment
Especially through:
 - Basic education programs about the oceans for all children and citizens,
 - Direct contact with the ocean through swimming lessons for children and field projects,
 - Use of the World Wide Web to promote communication between schools in coastal regions and schools inland.

Recommendations to support research

- More resources should be allocated to support both fundamental and applied research;
- More research programs should be implemented to find solutions:
 - To save and treat water,
 - To use alternative energies,
 - To reduce and treat pollutions, and,
 - To define new means of using the Ocean resources in a sustainable way for the future of humanity.

Recommendations to face climate change

- Concerned by the effect of climate change on our environment, we ask the international community to live up to its commitments, specifically by:
 - Enforcing its decisions and holding itself accountable for them,
 - Providing a strong educational tool to prevent further degradation of the environment, in all parts of the world.

Recommendations to foster sustainable use of ocean resources

- We state our commitment to development that *'meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'*.
We recommend:
 - The application of stricter measures to fisheries organizations
 - The establishment of a seasonal fishing action plan
 - The establishment of more and more diverse Marine Protected Areas

Recommendations to promote a better Ocean Governance

- Deeply troubled by the rapid degradation of the oceans and seas, and in support of the recognition of the ocean as a public good for all humanity, we ask for the establishment of a global ethics board, which we propose to name the United Oceans.
It would be based on the preservation of the ocean environment, and that would, through the use of its legal framework, compel governments to comply to this preservation
The constitution of this board would comprise governments as well as civil society actors - specifically those involved in scientific, education and social issues.

OUR COMMITMENTS

"De petits changements peuvent engendrer de grandes différences."

- *Nos engagements face au changement climatique :*
 - Nous nous engageons à réduire nos émissions de CO2.
Combattre le changement climatique suppose que nous modifions notre mode de vie.
 - Nous nous engageons à informer puis à sensibiliser notre entourage sur les bonnes pratiques éco-citoyennes au quotidien.
- *Nos engagements en lien avec les ressources halieutiques :*
 - Nous irons à la rencontre des pêcheurs pour recueillir leurs témoignages et leurs problèmes, et communiquer ces informations,
 - Nous voulons réaliser des vidéos afin de sensibiliser le public sur la pénurie des ressources halieutiques,
- We have agreed to step up and take on the challenge in protecting our environment through
 - Informing,
 - Inspiring and,
 - Involving other young people.
- For the next three years, we promise to educate and create awareness, among our generation on :
 - Climate change,
 - Marine biodiversity and
 - Natural resources conservation.
- Also, we will be involved in several activities including tree planting, clean-up drives, environmental youth camps, and we will practice 3R's : reduce, reuse, recycle.

We commit ourselves... to teach, to care, to conserve, to protect, to involve, to empower, and to ACT....

OUR CALL

As youth living on a planet of which almost 70% is covered in water, we have come together to appeal to all stakeholders involved to protect this large segment of our planet – to protect the use of the life and resources it gives, to recognize its importance, and to enforce the decisions taken; decisions that will not only affect us, but that will have a long term effect on the future generations.

This is our commitment – is it yours?