



WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL

The International Business Alliance for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

**World Ocean Council statement to
“Global Multi-stakeholder Partnership Small Island Developing States Dialogue”
United Nations, 22 September 2016**

Paul Holthus, founding CEO, World Ocean Council

Dear excellencies, distinguished panelists and participants;

The ocean affects our lives in many ways, including through weather events that disrupt travel, which have regrettably prevented me from being able to join you at this important event.

I am grateful for this opportunity to highlight the important need, value and efforts of the ocean business community to engage in island and ocean sustainable development.

The World Ocean Council (WOC) is the international, cross-sectoral Business Leadership Alliance on ocean sustainable development, science and stewardship.

The WOC brings together the diverse ocean business community, e.g. shipping, oil/gas, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, offshore renewables, seabed mining, finance, and many other sectors.

The WOC is a not-for-profit, non-government organization (NGO), with:

The Vision of a healthy and productive global ocean and its sustainable use, development and stewardship by a responsible ocean business community.

The Mission of bringing together the multi-sectoral ocean business community to catalyze global leadership and collaboration in ocean sustainable development and “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”.

As the only international multi-industry business leadership alliance on ocean and island sustainable development, science and stewardship, the WOC has a unique membership of companies from around the world and across the sectors, and a growing global WOC network that includes 35,000+ industry stakeholders

The international ocean business community is working together through the WOC to:

- **Address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by developing coordinated, proactive ocean industry targets and indicators, including on issues key to the SIDS.
- **Create the “Ocean Investment Platform”**, a system for linking ocean industries, innovators and investors to accelerate investment in island and ocean sustainable development.
- **Launch a global Young Ocean Leaders program** to help ensure the next generation of business leaders understand the need and value to address sustainable development for the ocean and islands.
- **Create the Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS)** – the only annual global, multi-industry gathering developed by and for the business community focused on sustainable development for islands and the ocean.

You are all invited to participate in the 4th Sustainable Ocean Summit, 30 Nov-2 Dec 2016 in Rotterdam.

The international ocean business community is working to develop and implement an ambitious program of action linked to the SDGs, including on:

- **Regional Ocean Industry Leadership**, by creating ocean business leadership organizations for the Pacific, Western Indian Ocean and other areas
- **Ocean Knowledge** (Smart Ocean - Smart Industries), by scaling up data collection from industry vessels and platforms
- **Disaster Risk Reduction**, by developing business leadership in port/coastal infrastructure adaptation and resilience
- **Marine Biodiversity Conservation**, by engaging the private sector in marine protected areas
- **Marine Pollution Reduction**, by tackling plastics and marine debris through developing Port Reception Facilities
- **Food Security**, by developing ocean industry collaboration around improving fisheries and aquaculture sustainability and reducing IUU fishing
- **Climate Change**, by engaging ocean industries in understanding and addressing ocean acidification
- **Energy Decarbonization**, by helping ensure ocean renewable energy can advance, e.g. through smart, effective marine spatial planning that works with the ocean business community
- **Ocean Governance, Policy and Planning**, by organizing business community input to the UNCLOS/BBNJ negotiations

Companies from around the world and across the sectors are coming together in the World Ocean Council to develop leadership and collaboration advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in support of healthy, productive seas and sustainable development of islands. We look forward to continuing to engage with governments in these efforts.

Lastly, I would note that the World Ocean Council is seeking to establish a permanent home for the WOC Secretariat. We would be happy to explore this with governments interested in hosting the global headquarters for this growing organization and its important mission of international private sector leadership and collaboration in ocean sustainable development.

Thank you.