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United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

2025 TOKYO STATEMENT

The [Foundations Dialogue](#) of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 ('Ocean Decade') is an informal, global network of community, corporate, and private philanthropic funders working together to support the Ocean Decade vision of "the science we need for the ocean we want". The group provides a space for dialogue that catalyzes collaborative actions amongst philanthropic funders to advance the generation and uptake of ocean knowledge to contribute to the Ocean Decade Challenges and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This statement emerged from discussions between participants at the Fifth Foundations Dialogue Meeting hosted by the Ocean Policy Research Institute at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, held in Tokyo, Japan, in September 2025. It builds on discussions and outcomes of the previous Foundations Dialogue Meetings, including the [2022 Bouknadel Statement](#), the [2023 Monaco Statement](#), and the [2024 Rio Action Statement](#).

This year's meeting took place at a moment where ocean issues are high on many political and social agendas and where some global policy frameworks have been strengthened, including through the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement.¹

The Foundations Dialogue recognises that there is an urgent need to seize opportunities to build global resilience and future-proof ocean science systems and infrastructure and to strengthen contributions to the implementation of multilateral frameworks, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the BBNJ Agreement, the UNFCCC process, and other relevant UN processes.

At the mid-point of the Ocean Decade, there is a unique opportunity to build on significant achievements over the last five years. Members of the Foundations Dialogue restate their continued commitment to the underlying principles of the [2024 Rio Action Statement](#) and highlight important progress that has been made in the following areas:

Action Area 1: New Funding Initiatives

- Extensive development and launch of the [OceanMatcher Platform](#), an initiative developed through the Foundations Dialogue to facilitate connections between endorsed Decade Actions and Programs requiring resources and relevant funders.
- Launch of new co-branded Calls for Decade Actions and joint funding proposals including the [Belmont Forum Oceans 2 Collaborative Research Action](#) and the [BNP Paribas Foundation Climate and Biodiversity Initiative](#).

Action Area 2: Better Practices for Investment in Actionable Ocean Science

- Development of a draft position paper to support evidence-informed decisions on investment in inclusive, actionable ocean science.

¹ Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

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Action Area 3: Strategic Communications

- Creation of opportunities for practitioners to connect and for best practice to be shared including at the [2025 United Nations Ocean Conference](#).
- Commencement of the Global Ocean and Society Survey rollout to gather nationally representative data.

Action Area 4: Collaboration across Philanthropic Initiatives

- Engagement of members in joint initiatives including the Navigate with Care Initiative and the Seabed Mapping Call to Action.

Looking forward, the [2027 Ocean Decade Conference](#) will be an important milestone to consolidate and amplify the impacts of the Ocean Decade and to reinforce the achievements of the Foundations Dialogue. Foundations Dialogue members commit to mobilising the philanthropic community before and during this Conference including the launch of new initiatives.

By 2030, Foundations Dialogue members envisage a robust, diverse, structured, and larger group that, by building on the individual strengths of its members, has contributed to a positive change in the volume, scale, effectiveness, and type of investment in ocean science and has advanced global discussions on the impact and benefits of this investment. By 2030, the members foresee a group that has the structures and resources in place to ensure that the Foundations Dialogue is an important, self-sustaining legacy of the Decade post-2030.

The meeting discussed the following actions and initiatives in four Action Areas that were identified as important initiatives to support and pursue, either as a group, in smaller groups, bilaterally, or as individual organisations. The meeting stressed the importance of tracking progress on the implementation of these actions and discussing their status at the Sixth Foundations Dialogue Meeting in 2026.

ACTION AREA 1: STRENGTHENED FUNDING INITIATIVES

- Develop “**Foundations Dialogue Pledges**”, starting with a pledge focusing on deep sea environments, that commit resources to priority areas emerging from the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference and the Ocean Decade Mid-Term Evaluation and that catalyse contributions from other partners.
- Support and use the philanthropic matchmaking tool – OceanMatcher – with a focus on matching of granters and grantees and creating opportunities for collaborative funding.
- Develop new co-branded calls for funding and participate actively in joint funding initiatives, including the Belmont Forum Oceans 2 Collaborative Research Action.

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ACTION AREA 2: BETTER PRACTICES FOR INVESTMENT IN ACTIONABLE OCEAN SCIENCE

- Explore the feasibility of a global analysis of trends in philanthropic funding in ocean science since the beginning of the Foundations Dialogue, including the efficiency and effectiveness of philanthropic funding to demonstrate the impact of philanthropic investment and to guide future decision making.
- Finalise and distribute a framework to support evidence-informed decision making for investment in actionable ocean science.
- Use the [Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility](#) as a means of exchanging better practices in capacity development, sharing information on initiatives that are underway and planned, and developing joint initiatives to support beneficiaries in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, and Early Career Ocean Professionals.

ACTION AREA 3: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

- Provide support and resources to Decade Actions on impactful approaches including through collaboration with the Challenge 10 Decade Coordination Office.
- Continue collaboration between Foundations Dialogue members to encourage the conversion of knowledge into action, starting with a new initiative focusing on the need to support and sustain ocean observations.
- Generate and share evidence on the impacts of strategic communications, including through the expanded Global Ocean and Society Survey rollout to gather nationally representative data.

ACTION AREA 4: COLLABORATION ACROSS PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVES

- Develop a live map of ocean-related philanthropic areas of interest, ideally to be integrated into OceanMatcher, based on a review of Foundations members' priority geographic focus and areas of interest.
- Document and share examples of joint initiatives and partnerships between Foundations to encourage collaboration, encourage new members to join the Foundations Dialogue, and showcase the benefits of the Foundations Dialogue.
- Promote the Foundations Dialogue and the Ocean Decade within professional networks and activate one-to-one connections with new Foundations to bring them to the group.

OPERATION OF THE FOUNDATIONS DIALOGUE

- Mobilise resources for a secretariat to support the group's operation and strengthen, diversify, and formalise its membership.
- Identify metrics of success for the work of the group.
- Develop a Foundations Dialogue Communications Strategy.

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SIGNATORIES:



Great Barrier
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