

# Brussels Statement

## Scientific institutions for Ocean Sustainability

April 19th, 2023

### Why the Ocean?

The **Ocean is essential for life on Earth**, it accounts for more than 90% of the habitable volume, absorbs 25-30% of the annual anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and approximately 93% of the excess heat caused by human activities. The Ocean is an important source of income, energy and inspiration for many communities. However, **Ocean's health is threatened** due to the cumulative impacts of multiple human activities. We are now well engaged in the UN Decade for Oceans Science for Sustainable Development and with the approaching UN Ocean Conference in 2025 there is an opportunity to harness science for action and real change in the Ocean. There is an urgent need to identify and implement scientific solutions for sustainable Ocean use.

### Gathering international community aided by scientific institutions for ocean sustainability

Envisioned as a transdisciplinary science-society-policy interface stimulating co-produced knowledge to guide Ocean sustainability, the **International Panel for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS)** aims at bridging that gap. At **COP27** in Sharm el-Sheikh we decided on the creation of the **coalition of scientific institutions in support of IPOS**. Today, in Brussels, in a workshop organized by CNRS, we decided to officially form a group to bring our strength together to guide us toward pathways for a sustainable Ocean.

### Rethinking the way we produce and practice ocean sustainability science

Sustainability science is **transdisciplinary** and sustainability problems need more than just scientific evidence to be solved and drive actions from non-scientific actors. We hereby want to promote a scientific practice to gather knowledge holders, stakeholders and decision-makers to create transformative change.

In agreeing to the Brussels Statement the participants pledge to **create a scientific framework to guide the collaboration of all the actors of Ocean sustainability** and **support the coalition of scientific institutions** in support of IPOS that will serve this purpose.

We further extend an invitation to the scientific institutions all over the world to join this coalition in support of IPOS.

### The first signatories:

