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PACIFIC RIM OCEAN-CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Ocean-Climate Ambition Declaration Pacific Rim Ocean-Climate Action Partnership November 2021

As we face increasingly severe climate impacts, from ocean acidification to sea level rise, it is clear that rapid global decarbonization is essential to protect the ocean, the communities, and the livelihoods that depend on its health.

Ocean solutions have a critical role in addressing climate change. Ocean-based mitigation solutions—from increasing offshore renewable energy to protecting and restoring coastal “blue carbon” ecosystems—can supply up to 21 percent of the emissions reductions necessary to limit warming to 1.5°C. Simultaneously, ocean-based adaptation efforts, such as: designating marine protected areas that conserve biological diversity and preparing climate-ready fisheries and ecosystems, can increase the ecological resilience of communities and diversify economic lifelines, protecting the livelihoods of people at the forefront of ocean-climate impacts.

The Pacific Rim Ocean-Climate Action Partnership is a voluntary national-subnational leadership coalition focused on stewardship of the world’s largest ocean. It is dedicated to ambitious reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including ocean-based mitigation measures, and ocean-climate resilience.

Pacific Rim Ocean-Climate Action Partnership pledge and call to action

In 2021, the Partnership reaffirms its commitments and calls Pacific countries to:

- **Increase overall climate ambition.** The Partnership is committed to intensifying ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as those generated by the use of fossil fuels for the production of plastics. The Partnership calls on all countries and non-state actors to reduce the emissions associated with plastic production and consumption through the implementation of diverse measures and strategies, such as restricting the use of problematic, single use plastic products; advancing policies that require the use of recycled content and facilitating investments in recycling infrastructure; disincentivizing open burning and incineration of plastic waste, where possible, across the region; supporting the research

developing reduction/reuse options and cost-effective, less pollutant alternatives to plastics, and phasing out production subsidies for fossil fuels and plastics.

- **Achieve the potential of ocean-based mitigation.** The Partnership is committed to maximizing sustainable and environmentally positive ocean-based mitigation measures to support overall climate ambition, such as maritime transportation. The Partnership calls on all Pacific countries and non-state actors to research, regulate, develop, and deploy vessels and infrastructure necessary to decarbonize domestic, as well as international, maritime transportation across the Pacific. The Partnership will work to support the development of suitable green shipping corridors in the region.
- **Advance ocean-climate resilience.** The Partnership is committed to maximize ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions to increase the resilience of ocean and coastal ecosystems and the communities and livelihoods on the front lines of ocean acidification, sea level rise, and other climate impacts, as well as the sensitization of these topics with the communities. The Partnership calls on all countries and non-state actors to support commitments to increase climate finance with at least half of funds dedicated to supporting adaptation activities, including those that benefit ocean resources and the people who depend on them.
- **Create an ocean-smart UNFCCC.** The Partnership calls on countries to support an ocean outcome in the UNFCCC that creates an ongoing forum for promoting ocean-climate action to debate and exchange experiences among countries and to allow ocean-related issues to be negotiated. It is a key moment to build and strengthen on COP25 (the “Blue COP”) and the UNFCCC ocean-climate dialogue. This is the time for the countries to establish clear commitments for the protection of the oceans in climate action.