



First Ocean Decade  
International Coastal Cities Conference  
**Qingdao Declaration**

February 27, 2025  
Qingdao, China



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

The ocean is the cradle of life, a treasure trove of natural and cultural resources, a source of solutions for global climate change, and the cornerstone of sustainable development for human society.

From February 26 to 27, 2025, in the context of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the first Ocean Decade International Coastal Cities Conference hosted by the Qingdao Municipal People's Government in partnership with the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO), and organized by the Qingdao West Coast New Area Management Committee and the Ocean Decade International Cooperation Center, was successfully held in Qingdao West Coast New Area.

Under the theme "Better Ocean, Better City," the conference brought together representatives from global coastal cities, research institutions, experts, scholars, and various stakeholders to jointly explore scientific pathways for the sustainable development of coastal cities.

On the occasion of this grand event's conclusion, we hereby release the Qingdao Declaration to the world, calling on coastal cities globally to generate and use science and knowledge to inform decision making and collaborate in building sustainable and equitable blue partnerships as a means of enhancing ocean literacy, addressing global climate change, protecting marine biodiversity, advancing marine science and technology innovation, and developing a sustainable ocean-based economy, thereby contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### 1. Build Global Cooperation for Blue Partnerships

Building on the achievements of the 'Cities with the Ocean' Platform that was launched at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference, we call on coastal cities around the world to collaborate to deepen cooperation and exchange on ocean science and knowledge between coastal cities. By sharing best practices, integrating resources and technologies, we aim to enhance the ability of coastal cities in areas such as climate change response, increased resilience to ocean hazards, marine ecological protection, disaster prevention and mitigation, and integrated coastal zone management. We are committed to promoting collective actions among global coastal cities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), other related SDGs, and thus to create a model of harmonious coexistence between the ocean and cities.

## 2. Promote Co-Design of Science and Knowledge and Marine Technological Innovation Cooperation to Empower Coastal City Development

We urge global coastal cities to enhance collaboration in ocean science and technology innovation, foster the deep collaboration between ocean science, indigenous and local knowledge, urban management, and advance interdisciplinary research. By sharing scientific and technological achievements, we will improve cities' capacities to address ocean-related challenges and enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of coastal cities. We encourage global coastal cities and stakeholders to co-design science-based solutions that take into account the priorities identified in The Barcelona Statement that emerged from the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference, translating transformative research outcomes into actionable policies, tools, and public service products, thus providing technological support for the sustainable development of ocean cities.

## 3. Address Global Climate Change Challenges and Enhance the Resilience of Ocean Cities

We call for the creation of a science-based toolkit to address climate change and increase coastal resilience, helping coastal cities around the world to implement scientific measures to cope with marine and climate-related disasters in the context of global climate change. This includes strengthening marine and climate environmental monitoring and forecasting, building disaster prevention and reduction infrastructure, including nature based solutions, and enhancing capacity development efforts. By developing clean energy sources such as offshore wind, solar power, and marine energy, we aim to drive coastal cities towards a low-carbon, green, and sustainable transformation. We are committed to building climate-resilient cities, reducing the threats posed by rising sea levels, extreme weather and climate events to coastal communities.

## 4. Protect Marine Biodiversity and Safeguard Marine Ecological Health

We call on global coastal cities to strengthen the establishment of marine protected areas, create cooperation mechanisms, and set up dedicated funds to support the restoration and conservation of critical ecosystems such as coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangroves. By creating dynamic marine biodiversity databases and scientifically monitoring impacts of hazards like harmful algal blooms on marine ecological health, we will advance ecosystem-based integrated ocean and coastal zone management. We pledge to collectively protect marine biodiversity and improve the stability and sustainability of marine ecosystems.

## 5. Develop a Sustainable Ocean-Based Economy and Foster New Quality Productive Forces

We call on global coastal cities to formulate and implement climate-resilient, inclusive, and equitable policies and strategies for the development of a sustainable ocean-based economy. Actively promote the high-value utilization of marine biological resources, marine renewable energy, marine equipment manufacturing, and other emerging industries, and facilitate the transition of traditional marine industries towards green, circular, and low-carbon directions.

## 6. Cultivate Blue Citizens and Enhance Public Ocean Literacy

We advocate for global coastal cities to strengthen marine science education, promote the widespread dissemination of ocean knowledge, and cultivate a young generation committed to marine science and conservation. Through diverse public education activities, we aim to enhance the awareness and sense of responsibility towards the ocean among coastal residents, particularly primary and secondary school students. Concurrently, we call for strengthened protection and inheritance of marine cultural heritage, innovation and dissemination of marine cultural products, and increased societal recognition and support for ocean sustainability.

Seizing this opportunity provided by the Conference, and in advance of the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference that will be co-hosted by France and Costa Rica in Nice, France in June 2025, we commit to working with partners to further the ambition of the Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition by supporting the science and knowledge needs of cities. We call on coastal cities, ports, Decade Actions, and relevant stakeholders worldwide to join hands in building an open, inclusive, and mutually beneficial global marine cooperation platform. Let us jointly safeguard the health and vitality of the ocean and work together to create a more prosperous and sustainable blue future for future generations.

[oceandecade.org](https://oceandecade.org)

