

“A healthy ocean, a protected climate” Revision of OCP’s global advocacy document

Concept Note

Context and vision:

The advocacy document “a healthy ocean, a protected climate” is the founding text of the Ocean & Climate Platform (OCP), defining its political positioning at the international level.

The first [OCP advocacy document](#), published in 2015 ahead of COP21 and structured around 9 recommendations, aimed to integrate the ocean into the Paris Agreement. Signed by over 70 organisations, it helped bring the voice of the ocean into the negotiation rooms. The objective was achieved, marking a decisive turning point that signaled the beginning of the recognition of the essential interlinkages between the ocean and the climate. The advocacy document also contributed to the adoption of the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere, which highlighted the role of marine and coastal ecosystems in mitigating climate change and adapting its impacts.

In 2019, OCP undertook a first revision of its advocacy document in preparation for the ‘Blue COP’ (COP25, Madrid). After eight months of collaborative work involving more than 50 French and international members, a [second advocacy document](#) was produced and contributed to the inclusion of the ocean, for the first time, in a final UNFCCC COP decision, as well as to the establishment of a dedicated ocean and climate change dialogue within the UNFCCC.

As the tenth anniversary of the Paris Agreement approaches, which we will celebrate in Belém during COP30 (10-21 November 2025), the OCP plans a new revision of its advocacy document.

2024 marked a turning point: for the first time, the 1.5°C threshold was surpassed. As the first cycle of the Paris Agreement comes to an end, we are entering a new phase of global climate governance, where the focus is shifting from negotiations to implementation.

This third advocacy document comes in a new international political context, notably marked by the attack on multilateralism and science. It will need to address these changes, as well as the emerging issues on the international stage. The revised document will also build on recent victories for the ocean, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework or the High Seas Treaty. This document must pave the way for renewed ambition and collective action in the years to come, particularly with the end of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objectives:

- **Unite the OCP network of members** around a shared advocacy document, collectively championed, and reaffirm the essential role of civil society (mobilisation, influence, vigilance).
- **Reaffirm the role of science and knowledge** in international ocean-related decisions.
- **Develop strong messages and concrete recommendations** urging to:
 - mitigate the effects of climate change and human activities on the ocean;
 - implement ocean-based mitigation and adaptation solutions to protect climate, biodiversity and societies;
 - strengthen the integration of the ocean into international policies, and establish a more integrated governance fostering synergies between ocean, climate and biodiversity issues;
- **Promote ethical principles and core values** – such as international cooperation, accountability, and equity – to drive transformative change.

Target audience: National and international decision-makers, particularly policy-makers involved in UNFCCC and CBD processes, and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Terms of reference:

- **Climate must be the guiding thread of the document**, with the revision falling within the framework of the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement. All topics addressed, which will be limited to the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus, will be approached from a climate perspective.
- **The document must align with previous editions of the advocacy document and the vision of a desirable future for the ocean** developed by the OCP, notably in the context of its mandate to mobilise civil society for the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3).
- **The recommendations must be co-constructed and co-written with the members** to ensure a network approach that capitalises on diverse expertise.
- **The document must be concise and impactful.** Therefore, prioritising topics will be necessary, recognising that not all can be addressed.
- **The document will be published in both English and French.** While the work of the Advocacy working group will be conducted in English, the secretariat will remain available to assist French-speaking members in facilitating their participation.

Methodology:

- **Step 1: Framing (April – May)**: This call for expression of interest, accompanied by a survey, aims to identify the future members of the advocacy working group, which will lead this revision. The **first meeting of the working group** will focus on the expectations of OCP members, an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the previous document, and the definition of the priority areas of the future one. The conclusions of the survey will be shared in preparation.
- **Step 2: Drafting of the first version (June – July)**: The OCP secretariat will draft a **first version of the advocacy document**, with the support of the working group. A **second meeting** of the group will be organised to discuss points of divergence and necessary adjustments.
- **Step 3: Proposing a second version (August – September)**: A new revision cycle will then be organised to refine this second draft.
- **Step 4: Finalising the document (September)**: The final version will be sent to the Scientific Committee for **validation of its scientific relevance**.
- **Step 5 : Document validation (September – October)**: The final document must be **approved by the Boards of Administrators** – which will also handle any necessary arbitration.
- **Step 6: Endorsement, publication and promotion (October – November)**: A **call for endorsement** will be issued for members to add their logo. In parallel, a **final meeting of the working group** will be organised with the respective communication teams to define a joint communication strategy for COP30 and beyond. The advocacy document will be launched in October, about two weeks before COP30. It will be presented at a launch event, highlighted during Ocean Day, and widely disseminated to States and state coalitions.

For more information, we invite you to contact Marine Lecerf, Head of international policy at the Ocean & Climate Platform: mlecerf@ocean-climate.org