

Ms Andrea Meza  
Honorable Minister for the Environment  
Government of Costa Rica

Paris, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Honorable Minister,

The seas and the poles have sounded the climate alarm and are themselves in danger. Representing three quarters of the surface of our planet, they are however too often forgotten in our meetings devoted to climate and biodiversity.

Through its biological and chemical dynamics and its circulation, the ocean is a kind of essential "engine room" that has always allowed life on Earth. A regulator of major environmental balances, a provider of resources, a major vector of economic exchanges, and an essential link between countries and human communities, the ocean is today threatened by the effects of climate change, pollution, and overexploitation of marine resources.

Therefore, President Emmanuel Macron, has proposed, as part of France's presidency of the Council of the European Union, to organize a ***One Ocean Summit***. Its aim is to raise the level of ambition of the international community on maritime and polar issues and to translate into action our shared responsibility for the ocean. With the support of the United Nations and the World Bank, it will bring together in Brest on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022, governments, international institutions, companies, and civil society actors most determined to commit to strong and concrete initiatives.

Several topics will be on the agenda of this ***One Ocean Summit***: governance of the oceans and high seas, preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, exploration, education and scientific knowledge of marine resources, sustainable blue economy, the fight against all types of pollution, including plastic pollution, and support for blue finance. This international mobilization, in the wake of the One Planet Summit organized since 2017, will provide a strong political impetus to accelerate multilateral work on the ocean.

The ***One Ocean Summit*** will also contribute to building a dynamic of determination ahead of several important international meetings that is held in the first half of 2022.



For all these reasons, the **One Ocean Summit** will bring together on **Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**, a small but determined number of heads of states and governments who wish to commit to deliverables and individual and collective actions for the ocean.

Knowing your mobilization and determination in this fight for the ocean – **we would be particularly honored to count on your physical presence to participate in the Workshops and Events organized in Brest**, to defend our common commitments but also to launch strong actions in favor of the ocean.

I hope I can count on your support for this event. Due to the short deadline, I would be grateful if you could send **your response by 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. The organizing team will be at your disposal to help lay the groundwork for your participation in this event.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration and the expression of my very best wishes for the New Year.

Olivier POIVRE D'ARVOR

*Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic for the ONE OCEAN SUMMIT  
Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime Issues*