COP31 Blue Shipping Corridors Ambition Statement

The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate support from maritime and ocean stakeholders for the enabling environment to establish “blue shipping corridors” that aim to have a net positive impact on ocean health, marine biodiversity, community benefits, coastal resilience and broader ocean health impacts beyond decarbonization.

This statement was drafted by the Marrakech Partnership Maritime Stakeholders.

Our Call on Governments

The endorsers of this statement representing maritime stakeholders from across business, investors, non-government organizations, academia, recognize the need for ‘blue shipping corridors’ that in addition to the decarbonization benefits of green shipping corridors, also aim to have a significant net positive impact on ocean health, marine biodiversity, coastal resilience and communities, and broader ocean impacts beyond decarbonization.

The endorsers recognise that jointly addressing decarbonisation and the stated wider shipping environmental and community impacts can leverage multiple synergies and strengthen the co-benefits of existing and future corridor initiatives whilst avoiding potential negative impacts.

We support the establishment of blue shipping corridors on specific trade routes between two or more ports (or a network of routes) which have the technical, commercial, and regulatory conditions put in place to:

1. Enable zero- or near-zero-emission shipping;
2. Deliver significant ocean conservation measures during the voyage and in the ports that have a net positive impact on ocean health and marine biodiversity;
3. Ensure community benefits and socio economic development and no net negative biodiversity effects on land.

In pursuit of this aim, we agree to work towards an enabling environment in ports, States territorial waters through Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and areas beyond national jurisdiction. that:

1. Continues to advance the **use of zero- or near zero-emission fuels or energy sources** by ships.
2. Advances the implementation of **nature based solutions** and **nature positive designs** for port and coastal development.
3. `Pursues the adoption of **technical and operational measures d**uring voyages and port operations that **minimize environmental impacts while protecting biodiversity and enhancing ocean health**
4. Develops **routing, ocean observation and data gathering practices** supporting sustainable management of ocean activities.
5. Implements the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights for project management, infrastructure construction and operation.

6. Ensures a **just and equitable transition** including remote ports and historically underserved routes, by supporting **capacity building**, technical assistance and knowledge transfer that is inclusive to all.
7. Supports the development of a **skilled workforce** both on the ship side and port side.
8. Includes a **review of progress** on an annual basis for example by improvements to data collection on the global progress towards this goal.

We call on governments to agree on an ambitious plan and empower stakeholders to deliver this enabling environment to establish blue shipping corridors that aim to have a significant net positive impact on ocean health, marine biodiversity, coastal resilience, community benefits and broader ocean ecosystem impacts beyond decarbonisation.

The Ambition Statement is endorsed by:

Annex I: COP 31 Ocean and Seas Priority

Oceans and Seas is a key priority for COP31 with the primary objective to establish a measurable resilience pathway in the COP31 Action Agenda by interlinking ecosystem protection, blue finance and transboundary data sharing. The aim is to transform the emphasis on ocean health, within the global climate agenda, into an operational regenerative blue economy framework, moving beyond isolated conservation efforts to structural integration of biodiversity impacts, pollution, coastal resilience as broader ocean health impacts beyond decarbonization. .

With three key focus areas:

- Increasing the climate resilience of coastal and marine socio-ecological systems
- Integration of blue carbon and ocean--based solutions
- Ocean observation, data sharing and regional cooperation

Maritime Shipping is a core pillar of the global ocean economy accounting for about 22% of the total ocean economy, moving 80% of world trade, sustaining the livelihoods of two million seafarers, and connecting billions of people to the food, energy, medicine, and critical goods they depend on, from megacities to remote islands. Building a resilient, zero emission, nature positive maritime sector is an ocean-based solution.

Annex II: Related Instruments to achieve this goal

- The long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- The International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s adoption of the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships, which aims to align international shipping with the aforementioned temperature target.
- The Clydebank Declaration to support the establishment of at least 6 green corridors by the middle of this decade, while aiming to scale activity up in the following years, by inter alia supporting the establishment of more routes, longer routes and/or having more ships on the same routes and the progress that has been made.

- The global goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to effectively conserve and manage 30% of our land and seas by 2030, whereby by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.
- The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- The UNOC3 Declaration recognizing we share one ocean, and we remain gravely concerned with the global emergency it faces from the impacts of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Emphasising that action is not advancing at the speed or scale required to meet SDG 14.