



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 31 May 2022
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Request for endorsement of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Declaration to be signed on behalf of the EU on ocean research cooperation with Argentina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, Morocco, South Africa, United States, during the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum in Washington DC (July 2022)

Delegations will find attached a Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on the above-mentioned subject with a view to the Research Working Party meeting on 2 June 2022.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION
Directorate B – Healthy Planet

Brussels, 20 May 2022

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE
RESEARCH WORKING PARTY**

***SUBJECT:* All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Declaration to be signed on behalf of the EU on ocean research cooperation with Argentina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, Morocco, South Africa, United States, during the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum in Washington DC (July 2022)**

***CONTACT POINTS:* Commission DG RTD Unit B.4.**

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REMARKS:

Hereby the services of the Commission transmit to the Council for endorsement the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Declaration (“AAORIA Declaration”) to be signed on behalf of the European Union at the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum in Washington DC on 13 July 2022 (the “Ministerial event”), by the Commission representative Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, alongside ministers participating to the Ministerial event.

On 3 December 2021, the Commission presented for the first time to the Council the AAORIA Declaration content and drafting process as well as the status of the preparation of the 2022 All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum.

Since 3 December 2021, the AAORIA Declaration has been subject to a round of comments by partners which resulted in a commonly agreed and stable version of the Declaration. The Declaration was also a subject to internal consultation and approval within the Commission services in May 2022, with EXCO approval on 18 May 2022. The current draft text highlights the shared objectives of partners to preserve a healthy and sustainable Atlantic Ocean through continuing their common scientific endeavour, and avoids any committing language and potential financial implications for the European Union as such. Signing the Declaration is expected to provide the strategic ambitions and renewed vision for the next decade of the Alliance. It is expected that only minor adjustments may be requested by the ministers during the forthcoming Ministerial event in Washington DC.

All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Declaration
The “ALL-ATLANTIC DECLARATION”

Text (as of May 20, 2022)

Recognizing the importance of the Atlantic Ocean in supporting human health and well-being, as well as natural species and ecosystems, in regulating climate, and as a source of natural resources,

Acknowledging the key role the Atlantic Ocean plays in contributing to regional, national, and global economies, including sustainable and inclusive ocean economies,

Recognizing the considerable challenges faced by the Atlantic Ocean, including climate change, and pollution and overexploitation of resources, among other anthropogenic stressors,

Highlighting the need to address these challenges throughout the Atlantic basin at local and regional scales, and acknowledging important linkages with the polar seas,

Recognizing our reliance on accurate, open science and knowledge to inform decisions affecting the Atlantic Ocean,

Recognizing the benefits and the need for an inclusive and equitable approach to scientific cooperation, inviting the Atlantic Ocean community (coastal communities and Indigenous Peoples, scientists, citizens, entrepreneurs, policy makers, etc), in the co-design, co-stewardship, and co-implementation of outcome-oriented ocean science and innovation initiatives,

Valuing the importance of international partnerships to align efforts and co-create a shared vision to enhance scientific cooperation that advances outcome-oriented ocean science and innovation, for an Atlantic Ocean that is safe, healthy, and sustainable for future generations,

Acknowledging the achievements from the “Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation”, the establishment of a “South-South Framework for Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the South and Tropical Atlantic and the Southern Ocean”, and the accomplishments of the “Belem Statement on Atlantic Research and Innovation Cooperation”, as contributions strengthening linkages between the North and South Atlantic and advancing cooperative ocean science,

Reinforcing the importance of engaging with relevant international initiatives and entities with complementary visions of and actions for a healthy and sustainable ocean, consistent with international law,

1) We, the signatories of this Declaration, intend to:

- (a) support the sustainable development of the Atlantic Ocean by establishing a long-lasting All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (“the Alliance”), following the motto “Connecting-Cooperating-Acting,”
- (b) share knowledge, infrastructures, and capacity by promoting innovative and transformative outcome-oriented science, in accordance with our respective laws, rules and regulations and consistent with the provisions of the *1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea*.
- (c) support and build upon existing international efforts, reinforcing the implementation of the Galway and Belem Statement initiatives, to advance our knowledge and stewardship of the Atlantic Ocean, noting that partners will decide which activities to engage in.

2) Our joint collaboration will seek to address shared priorities such as:

- a) Increasing our understanding of the relationship between the ocean and climate, and to develop outcome-oriented science for mitigating and adapting to its consequences,
- b) Monitoring, protecting and restoring marine ecosystems and biodiversity, thereby enhancing their resilience and potential for adaptation to climate change and other natural and anthropogenic stressors,
- c) Tackling the impacts of marine pollution, including plastics, on marine species and ecosystems,
- d) Developing innovative, outcome-oriented science to support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture,
- e) Coordinating Atlantic Ocean observing and seabed mapping efforts and improving modeling capacities,
- f) Promoting circular, sustainable and inclusive ocean economies,
- g) Promoting ocean literacy and broadening engagement in ocean sciences and ocean sustainability.

3) We intend to achieve this joint collaboration through:

- a) Building an All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance community by co-creating and co-implementing fit for purpose ocean science activities,
- b) Promoting and applying accessible, interoperable, and transparent knowledge and data systems,
- c) Enhancing access to, and sharing of, ocean science infrastructures, data and expertise,
- d) Including local, experiential, and Indigenous knowledge in ocean science initiatives,
- e) Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, in particular efforts to advance gender and intergenerational equity in ocean science and to support meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples,

- f) Strengthening stakeholder engagement, in particular with citizens and youth, and increasing the human dimension in ocean science.
 - g) Proposing and implementing innovative, transformative and outcome-oriented science to support the health and sustainable development of the Atlantic Ocean,
 - h) Promoting capacity building and exchange, particularly by promoting and facilitating youth programmes and creating development opportunities for early career professionals and promoting intergenerational learning,
 - i) Engaging with relevant international initiatives and entities with complementary visions of a healthy and sustainable ocean consistent with international law, as well as the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030, its legacy, and present and future relevant initiatives, such as the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030.
- 4) The Alliance would remain open for scientific cooperation on initiatives with all willing partners throughout the Atlantic Ocean and sharing common vision, values and goals included in this Declaration.
- 5) This Declaration is not designed or intended to create legal rights or obligations under international law and has no financial implications.
- 6) Signed in Washington D.C. on 13 July 2022 in the English, French, Spanish and Portuguese languages, in ____ original copies for each language, each version being equally valid.

For the European Union

**For the Ministry of Science,
Technology and
Innovations of the
Federative Republic of
Brazil**

**For the Ministry of Higher
Education, Science and
Innovation of the Republic
of South Africa**

**For the Department of
Fisheries and Oceans of Canada**

**For the Department of State
of the United States of
America**

**For the Ministry of the Sea
of Cabo Verde**

**For the Ministry of Higher
Education, Scientific
Research and Innovation -
Kingdom of Morocco**

**For the Ministry of Science,
Technology and Innovation
of the Republic of Argentina**