

## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

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**MERCATOR OCEAN  
INTERNATIONAL**

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<https://www.mercator-ocean.fr/en/>

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 1st August 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### **Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent**

28 July 2021

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Mercator Ocean International reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its 10 Principles in human rights, labour, environment, and anticorruption

Two-years after the start of our membership as a non-business organisation, I am proud to deliver our first Communication on Engagement. The purpose of Mercator Ocean International is to build a lasting and relevant base of scientific knowledge and operational skills to serve the general interest of a sustainable ocean. As such, we have been continuously feeding fruitful interactions between ocean scientists, public and institutional decision makers, and civil society. Our UNGC membership was therefore evidence not for some of us but for all of us.

Our influence to push for fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, and anti-corruption is negligible. However, for the last two-years, we have been deploying many activities for engaging stakeholders and in particular companies, citizens, and the youth towards the three UN Global Compact environmental principles. In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support these three UN Global Compact Principles as suggested for an organisation like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication. I would welcome any feedback on our COE.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. BAHUREL'.

Pierre BAHUREL

Director General

Mercator Ocean International

## Part II. Description of Actions

Mercator Ocean International (MOI) is a not-for-profit international organisation based in Toulouse (France) with ten affiliates in France, Spain, Italy, Norway, and the United Kingdom, delivering a public interest mission: to build a science-based Digital Ocean for supporting the conservation and the sustainable use of our ocean and seas.

As part of our mission, we are committed to engage in dialogue and cooperation with Science, Policies and Civil Society, in particular private companies, and citizens.

Worth being noticed that the COVID pandemic broke out in the last quarter of 2019 and led to two long periods of confinement incompatible with presential events in France and abroad. This has impacted our traditional engagement practices but has been leading us to innovate.

### 1. Internalize the Global Compact

**Core Values:** We have initiated our mission as an UN GC Member by an internal mobilisation among the staff for defining together MOI's core values. Our four core values are all aligned with and mention UNGC principles. They have been published on our [website](#) and intranet.

- WE ARE COMMITTED TO CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- WE ARE COMMITTED TO CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY
- WE ARE COMMITTED TO SERVING A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN
- WE ARE COMMITTED TO EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCEAN

**Corporate Social Responsibility projects:** This first step has been followed by an internal initiative started during the first confinement in April 2020, that we called "MERCATOR AFTER". MERCATOR AFTER 2020-2021 will be followed by MERCATOR AFTER 2021-2022. The related projects are a first step towards a CSR policy and were all conducted on a voluntary basis by the staff. The 2020-2021 projects were:

- Sustainable Business Trips
- Easy visio
- Cycling first
- Daily commuting footprint
- Carbon footprint
- Let's optimize the storage of our data
- Let's optimize our power consumption
- Telework during confinement
- Zero Plastic and Responsible Consumption

### 2. Joining and proposing partnership projects:

**UN SDG 14 Awareness:** Every citizen is an agent for change and must be helped, as an Ocean Citizen, so he/she can take good care of the Ocean in his/her private or professional life. We have been therefore partnering with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), hosting the Secretariat for SDGs and the NGO SULITEST.org for working on the first educational module dedicated to Ocean and UN SDG14 "Life below Water". [The SULITEST SDG 14 module](#) (an MCQ and a quiz) has been conceived and peer-reviewed by a worldwide pool of experts (Including MOI's) that we have gathered. They are working in many international organisations and we are proud to name them: **COPERNICUS Marine Service of the European Union, EMODnet** (European Marine Observation and Data Network), **Fondation de la Mer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),**

**French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), Group on Earth Observation's initiative GEO BLUE PLANET, Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (Italy), Villefranche Oceanographic Laboratory (France), Ocean Azul Foundation (Portugal), Ocean & Climate Platform (France), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), VTA Tassin Ocean & Law policy (Switzerland), Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA, Kenya), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-European Policy Office).** Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, kindly accepted to bring his precious contribution.

**Engage companies:** Our Ocean data and information are used in many fields (Maritime transport, Energy, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Environmental Policies, Climate change...) and by many users' typologies including Entrepreneurs, Commercial services, start uppers. On behalf of the European Commission, we make terabytes of data, indicators, and scientific expertise intelligible, accessible, and downloadable for them on a free basis and they expect us to provide reliable and accurate data (temperature, salinity, currents, sea ice extent, ocean colour, primary production...) corresponding to their needs, to help them improve their research, their services, their business development, or their projects. In accordance with our core values and UN SDG 14 targets, we have been deploying many efforts to focus our Marketing and Communications towards a sustainable blue economy, while applying UN GC 's Principle 8 (undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility) and Principle 9 (encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies).

Our Marketing teams have put a special emphasis on 3 fields in particular:

**-Marine Renewable Energies (MRE) :** by developing a partnership with the [Ocean Energy Europe Association](#). promoting only innovative MRE solutions on our primary communication channel ([example 1](#) , [example 2](#) and [organising webinars dedicated MRE activities](#))

**-Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture :** [supporting related EU policies](#), promoting virtuous use-cases ([example 1](#), [Example 2](#), [Example 3](#) [Example 4 in Africa](#)), [promoting Science/business projects](#), and [organising webinars dedicated MRE activities](#).

**-CO2 reduction in Maritime Transport :** promoting exemplary use-cases on our primary communication channel ( [Example 1](#), [Example 2](#)) and in our publication "[Blue Book, Copernicus for a sustainable ocean](#)".

### **3. Join and support special initiatives and workstreams:**

#### **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO) Initiatives**

-Mercator Ocean International has been working for many years with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO ( IOC/UNESCO) for Ocean Science ( such as the Global Ocean Observing System) but not only : we are also very proud to contribute to their huge efforts for enhancing Ocean awareness and Ocean Literacy among the Youth and young scientists ( example : [Word Ocean Day, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020](#)) and [Ocean Teacher Global Academy \(OTGA\)](#), a web-based training platform that supports classroom training (face-to-face), blended training (combining classroom and distance learning), and online (distance) learning.

- The United Nations has proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, to be held from 2021 to 2030, piloted by IOC/UNESCO. The Decade will require the engagement of many different stakeholders to create new ideas, solutions, partnerships and applications, these include **scientists, governments, academics, policy makers, business, industry and civil society**. UN Decade

of Ocean Science is a priority for Mercator Ocean International, yet committed to lending its full support to the IOC-UNESCO and its extensive experience in operational oceanography, for developing and sharing ocean knowledge, integrating digital solutions into sustainable services, and engaging with society. As the Decade has just started in June 2021, the results are not yet visible

**Towards a Plastic-free Ocean:** Mercator Ocean International has organised locally a Zero-Plastic Week in May 2021 with the ambition of sharing information and providing best practices to avoid or refrain the use of Plastics in the daily life. The event has received the label “[EU GREEN WEEK #ZeroPollution](#)” by the European Commission.

**Ocean Framework and Ocean-Approved Label:** Companies have a major role to play in the protection and conservation of the Ocean. Mercator Ocean International is therefore part of the Scientific Committee of the FONDATION DE LA MER since Q2 2021 in the frame of the Ocean Framework, the first worldwide tool of its kind, allowing companies to identify, measure and optimize the impact of their interactions with the Ocean. Based on the Ocean Framework, the OCEAN APPROVED® label makes it possible to identify and bring together all companies and communities that are committed to reducing their impact on the Ocean beyond compliance with current regulations. Mercator Ocean International has and will continue to collaborate with the Ocean framework and the OCEAN APPROVED® label recommended by UN GC and intends to apply for getting the label as soon as it will be open to organisations.

#### **4. Participate in global, regional, and local events**

-On November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Mercator Ocean International has published its [Blue Book “Copernicus for a Sustainable Ocean”](#), a report to inform policymakers, citizens, students and youth on how the Copernicus Marine Service operated by Mercator Ocean International benefits society including the private sector and the blue economy. Among the Blue Book contributors are decision-makers, entrepreneurs (12), experts, concerned citizens, and scientists from all over the world that are directly involved in ocean-related issues. The Blue Book has been launched during a conference at the European Parliament entitled “[Fostering knowledge on a sustainable ocean](#)” and is regularly distributed and downloaded since. During the event, talks and exchanges took place with ocean stakeholders who have been committed to changing EU Policies, fostering the Blue Economy or engaging citizens for numerous years, such as [Ocean Energy Europe](#) (Trade Association, the largest global network of ocean energy professionals) and the association “[Children for the Oceans](#)” a Non-Profit Organization created in 2018 by a 16 years old teenager to protect the oceans and raise the level of awareness of children.

- In the frame of the “**EU GREEN WEEK #ZeroPollution**” of the European Commission, Mercator Ocean International has organised on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 a virtual event called “**A digital ocean for an healthy ocean**” meant for decision-makers, public and private stakeholders to discuss the opportunity of the digital ocean to reduce marine pollution. [We have invited Private stakeholders to provide talks and testimony during the event.](#)

- [SULITEST SDG 14 module](#) (see above 2.) The project kick-off has been launched on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 during the United Nations High Level Political Forum, SDG Learning and Training’s Session 5 [Global Environmental Commons](#). The Project delivery (the Tool) has been launched on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 during the United Nations High-Level Political Forum 2021 side-event called [#WeAreAllOceanCitizens](#).

## Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

### 1. Internalize the Global Compact

PROJECTS 2020 - 2021	RESULTS
Sustainable Business Trips	Comparative balance sheet 2018-2019. Next year: Recommendations.
Easy visio	Benchmark for good practice Next year: Best Practice Handbook.
Cycling first	Donations of old bicycles, repaired and freely available to the staff.
Daily commuting footprint	Sustainable mobility plan engaged with the local public transport system operator TISSEO for the whole staff.
Carbon footprint	Carbon footprint realised internally: Energy consumption, Commuting to work, Business Trips, HPC computation. Internal presentation and awareness, Next year: Recommendations.
Let's optimize the storage of our data	Algorithms have been created to identify unaccessed and obsolete data. They will be shortly erased. Next year: Mailing system optimisation and sharing of best practices.
Let's optimize our power consumption	Set up of a system for enabling people to turn off PCs remotely. Best practices handbook.
Telework during confinement	Internal assessment of the difficulties encountered by the staff due to the compulsory confinement leading to 5 days a week teleworking (personal, material, organisation, ...) and requirements survey.
Zero Plastic and Responsible Consumption	Series of internal events around the topic "AFTER PLASTIC". Awareness sessions and workshops by local experts over a week.
People involved	Active members : 40 Reached audience : 120
Number of internal events	8

### 2. Joining and proposing partnership projects:

Number of experts in the SULITEST SDG 14 Working Groups	15
Number of Companies reached out up to March 2021	3600

### 3. Join and support special initiatives and workstreams:

Number of Attendees of OTGA June 2021	88
Toward a Plastic-free Ocean EU GREEN WEEK #ZeroPollution	Active members: 40, Reached audience: 120

### 4. Participate in global, regional, and local events

Number of attendees at the "Fostering knowledge on a sustainable ocean" event at the European Parliament	110
Number of Blue Book, disseminated among private/public organisations, citizens, and decision makers (digital and print versions)	900
Number of attendees at the digital ocean for a healthy ocean" event during the "EU GREEN WEEK"	184
Number of attendees at the #WeAreAllOceanCitizens event	134