

Press Release, 18/10/2022

The Bizerte Declaration: an unprecedented call for Ocean2050

Under the aegis of Rym Benzina (President of La Saison Bleue) and Pascal Lamy (President of the Forum), the 5th edition of the Forum Mondial de la Mer (World Sea Forum) in Bizerte, Tunisia has taken an unprecedented turn that calls for an international mobilisation – a “cooperation shock” to work urgently and collectively towards a healthy Ocean by 2050. Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, French Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime Issues, Pierre Bahurel, the Director General of Mercator Ocean International and many international personalities have co-signed the Bizerte Declaration.

Driven by their commitment to the ocean, Tunisian and international experts, scientists, economic representatives, associations and politicians gathered during the 5th edition of the Forum Mondial de la Mer de Bizerte (World Sea forum), to produce a forward-looking reflection on the ocean in 2050 and to develop an initial Action Plan for confronting the challenges of the future. The fruitful discussions led to the signature of the Bizerte Declaration. By creating the **OCEAN 2050 Team**, the signatories of the Bizerte Declaration “*call on States, international and non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, the environmental monitoring bodies, businesses, investors, users of the sea and civil society organizations to work together in order to build a safe and healthy ocean by 2050*”.

Recalling the image of the starfish, based on the five major themes supported by the European Union under the framework of the Starfish Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”, the work of the OCEAN 2050 Team will be organised around five branches: 1. Governance, Peace, Justice and Security, 2. Science, Innovation and Shared Knowledge, 3. Protection, Regeneration and Adaptation, 4. Fighting against all forms of pollution, 5. Sustainable Blue Economy and Finance.

Mercator Ocean International will be notably involved in the branch *Science, Innovation and Shared Knowledge*, in particular for the development of a **Digital Twin of the Ocean** “to quickly fill the knowledge gaps needed for action and to nurture a global knowledge-sharing system.” Pierre Bahurel comments that “*in the coming year we are going to turn this into something real, creating another step in this Digital Twin of the Ocean that will allow us to find a space to put knowledge and turn this knowledge into a decision for everyone.*”



[The Bizerte Declaration \(link\)](#)

[Link to the video interview to Pierre Bahurel \(French\)](#)