

**DECLARATION OF LYMPIA**  
**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION**  
**DEDICATED TO THE DIGITAL OCEAN**

**JUNE 9, 2025,**

**We,**

**Belgium, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain,**

**Participating** in the Third United Nations Ocean Conference at Port Lympia, Nice (France),

**Acknowledging** that the Convention for the establishment of Mercator International Centre for the Ocean as the first intergovernmental organisation dedicated to digital ocean systems and information services is now open for signature,

**Acknowledging** that Mercator International Centre for the Ocean's mission aims at designing, developing and operating world-class digital ocean systems, at contributing to a Digital Twin of the Ocean encompassing ocean physics, biogeochemistry and ecosystem sciences, and at providing authoritative digital Ocean information services, including operational ocean forecasting services, to its Member States, the European Union and international ocean governance,

**Acknowledging** that creating Mercator International Centre for the Ocean in the 2027-2028 timeframe could aid in establishing intergovernmental governance for the delivery of the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service in the next European Union Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2035) and in fulfilling the digital ocean objectives of the UN Decade for Ocean science and sustainable development,

**Declare that:**

- We collectively applaud the efforts made for drafting the Mercator International Centre for the Ocean's Convention.
- We witness the signature of the Convention by the governments of France and Norway.
- We wish to continue to work together and with the governments of other States participating in the European Union Copernicus programme towards the creation of Mercator International Centre for the Ocean in time for the new organisation to operate the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service in the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework.