



## **2020 UN OCEANS CONFERENCE – Zero Draft of the Conference Declaration**

### **Ervis Foundation (India)**

We would like to present our detailed contribution to the Zero Draft declaration. We hope that our inputs can be considered and can effectively add to the successful execution of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

#### **About Ervis Foundation**

[Ervis Foundation](#) is a youth-led organization that aims to fight against one of the biggest adversities that plague our lives and our environment today – plastic pollution. Registered and aligned with the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (Goal 12 and 14) we aim to inspire and engage with the youth in bringing a positive behavioral change in the way we consume and dispose of plastic.

The idea stemmed in the mind of 13-year-old Haaziq Kazi, who invented the Ervis Ship dedicated to clean plastic waste from the oceans. He realized, if he could do it, then so could many young changemakers like him. He decided to establish this foundation to give a platform for the youth to devise ideas, strategies, solutions and innovations that are dedicated towards solving the plastic crisis and giving a cleaner future to our oceans.

Our major focus has been on implementing our educational initiatives, which primarily includes the Blue workshops, where we engage with students across schools through discussions and activities with an aim to bring a generational change in the way we consume and dispose plastic.

#### **Our Inputs for the Zero Draft**

As of 2018, about 600 million people, more than half of India's population are under the age of 25; no country has more young people. Through our interaction with over 1600 students in India and UAE in the last one year, we realized that the youth is brimming with innovative ideas and solutions that just needs to be channeled in the right direction. Hence, our intervention today calls



for the declaration to draw greater emphasis on the role of the youth in effective implementation of Goal 14.

It is important that we remember that the youth are to face the consequences tomorrow, of the actions we take today. Therefore, it is important that we consider them to be the primary stakeholders when it comes to working towards saving our oceans.

We would like to draw your attention to point 11 (g) of the Zero Draft. We would like for the declaration to highlight and define the role of the youth and the importance of education in driving action (*preferably have a separate point to emphasize the role of the youth*). The current draft of the declaration generalizes the role of education and empowerment to youth, children and adults alike. We would like for definitive actions to be determined and for making the youth a major part of the decision-making process.

Some of the key ideas / solutions that we would like to put forth are:

- a. We want to drive support to formulate and develop a standardized but regionally specific curriculum that can be inculcated globally in all schools. This is to ensure that the youth gain a deeper insight into ocean-learning and are instilled with the required environmental values. This should also include *action-driven activities (clean-up drives, awareness campaigns, waste management etc.)* are conducted that directly contribute towards curbing marine litter. This should be done with the support of schools and overseen by local government authorities and regional bodies affiliated with the United Nations.
- b. Identifying and training individuals who can organize and execute workshops, seminars, and courses to aptly educate and encourage the youth to participate in activities that work towards cleaner oceans. We can create "Regional Empowerment Hubs" that focus solely on driving awareness and disseminating education around ocean-learning.
- c. Organizing regional conferences and events for the youth to share their ideas, voice their opinions and submit their solutions and innovations. Their inputs can then also be considered when drafting declarations and resolutions in the coming future. This can be done by affiliating with local schools, NGOs and government bodies.
- d. Supporting countries in setting up incubation labs for youth where innovations can be tested and developed. This support will especially be helpful for regions that have limited technological infrastructure but have a strong youth population that can be driven to action.



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- e. Educating, enabling and supporting university students in conducting detailed and localized research and data collection which can better help in developing solutions suitable to that region.
- f. Developing technologies such as robotics and IoT, in collaboration with students, to develop efficient waste collection and disposal, and also for developing newer and effective recycling methods.
- g. Enhancing the usage of social media platforms by encouraging the youth to effectively engage in dialogues about Goal 14 and driving the civil society to take-up action in solving the problem.

Since this year the focus is on driving science and innovation to respond to the urgency of the situation, we believe that the youth, if given access to required resources and technology, can act as a primary catalyst to drive positive and immediate action and change.

As Greta Thunberg said, *"We don't want these things to be done by 2050, 2030 or even 2021. We want this to be done by now."* We believe it's the youth who can take the action now! We hope that you consider our inputs and give us, youth, the opportunity to support major stakeholders, government-bodies, and the civil society in working towards creating a cleaner future for our oceans.

Thanking you once again for giving us the opportunity to share our detailed inputs.

Regards,

Team Ervis