

Declaration of Interest for a Space4Ocean Alliance

To be adapted for each signatory : *[Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (hereinafter referred to as "the signatory"), a French scientific and technical public establishment of industrial and commercial nature, governed by the provisions of articles L. 331-1 to L. 331-8 of the French Code of Research, having its registered office located at 2, place Maurice Quentin, 75039 Paris Cedex 01, France, represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Lionel Suchet]*

RECOGNIZING that the ocean, our world's largest biosphere, covering 71% of our planet's surface, is currently at high risk. Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods. The state of the ocean urgently requires decisive, rapid and unified efforts to remedy its critical condition;

RECALLING that the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted on 25th September 2015 at the UN Sustainable Development Summit reaffirmed that safeguarding the ocean must remain a priority, notably towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal No. 14 (SDG 14), aiming to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources;

HIGHLIGHTING that oceanography and Earth observation from space have become major assets to understand, monitor, model, forecast and project the evolution of the ocean and coastal zones due to climate and biodiversity changes, and other anthropogenic pressures;

RECOGNIZING a significant challenge of coordination and communication between the space sector and marine and maritime stakeholders, as well as several gaps in addressing ocean challenges, such as space missions providing all required observations, data access and usage, available applications to meet user needs, assessments and assessment indicators;

AFFIRMING that space enabled capabilities and satellite data, complemented by in situ measurements and models, enables the development of solutions that are key for designing new applications and evidence-based services dedicated to ocean and coastal challenges, particularly for frontline countries like Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which have often limited resources in that regard;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the creation of a Space4Ocean Alliance would provide, in accordance with international law, an opportunity to:

- Connect the space sector with marine, maritime and other relevant stakeholders;
- Better respond to needs and priorities for an improved sustainable management of the ocean and coastal areas;
- Advocate for implementation of innovative space missions to fill ocean observation gaps, as well as complementary in-situ measurements;
- Share good practices, facilitate and promote access to ocean observations (satellite and in-situ data), models and their joint use, propose proven operational applications and strengthen the underpinning ocean science for the development of tailored services;
- Develop capacity building actions and training initiatives for the benefit of ocean stakeholders both in terms of data access and operational services, especially in frontline countries such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- Inform the state and health of the marine environment by contributing to and advocating for the development of local, regional and global ocean indicators to be considered by appropriate organizations and to be used by decision makers.

Declares its intention to support the establishment of a Space4Ocean Alliance as follows:

I. Purpose of the Space4Ocean Alliance

1. The purpose of a Space4Ocean Alliance is to build bridges between the space sector and marine and maritime stakeholders to fully harness the potential of space data, in-situ data and solutions, bringing them to a greater number of users facing ocean and coastal challenges.
2. To respond to the abovementioned purpose, the Space4Ocean Alliance shall operate as an international consultation mechanism and platform for expert-level and high-level exchanges with the objective of promoting the concrete use of space capabilities for the preservation, protection and conservation of the ocean, while complementing existing initiatives.

II. Space4Ocean Alliance Priorities, Objectives and Contributions

1. The priorities that shall be addressed by the Space4Ocean Alliance are the following (non-exhaustive list):
 - a. Ocean biodiversity protection: improved monitoring of Marine Protected Areas (MPA),
 - b. Climate Change impacts on the ocean, including Natural Disasters / extreme event,
 - c. Sustainable Blue Economy (including sustainable fishing, aquaculture, marine renewable energy, tourism, decarbonization of maritime transport...) and ocean governance,
 - d. Marine and coastal pollution,
 - e. Coastal zone management,
 - f. Maritime Security and Surveillance, (including Illegal fishing and Unreported and Unregulated activities),
 - g. Performance and gaps of Earth observation data for global to local ocean applications,
 - h. Foundation ocean science generating the knowledge and experience necessary to implement operational services in support of stakeholder needs.
2. Once created, the support proposed by its members to the Space4Ocean Alliance may respond to the following objectives:
 - a. On the coordination front:
 - provide and improve the dialogue between the international space sector and the global ocean community, to identify and discuss needs and priorities;
 - provide a gateway to enable the use of space solutions and best support national needs and priorities with a view to achieving international objectives such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
 - facilitate access to space data and operational services, especially in LDCs and SIDS;
 - develop capacity building actions and training initiatives for the benefit of marine and maritime stakeholders.

- b. On the upstream segment:
 - gather observational needs that could be addressed through innovative Earth-observation space missions;
 - strengthen and increase the capacity of the space community to address more operational ocean and coastal services needs;
 - increase, facilitate and communicate on space data access for all related to ocean observation.
 - c. On the downstream segment:
 - leverage the use and performance of space technologies, products, services and applications for the preservation and sustainable use of our ocean;
 - contribute to defining and producing indicators for the ocean state and health;
 - ensure the data's fitness for purpose to meet specific needs;
 - strengthen capacities of access to and application of space data;
 - reach consensus on priority data service needs from marine and maritime stakeholders;
 - provide data that supports evidence-based decisions.
 - d. Propose coordinated recommendations in UNOC declarations.
 3. Actions taken within the scope of the Space4Ocean Alliance should notably respond to the needs of countries that do not have space capabilities and/or enough resources or scientific expertise - in particular LDCs and SIDS.

III. [positioning and] organization of the Space4Ocean Alliance

1. The Space4Ocean Alliance shall build on and complement existing initiatives without duplicating them. The Space4Ocean Alliance will also rely on the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and its inherent role as a gateway between the international space community and Member States and other UN entities.
2. The Space4Ocean Alliance shall be opened to all Members States of the United Nations, institutions in charge of international, regional or national marine, maritime or space policy, multilateral organizations, relevant public and private stakeholders.
3. The governance of the Space4Ocean Alliance shall be established with a collaborative, integrated, effective, and decision-making approach to achieve its objectives. It shall notably include a committee, made up of one representative from each supporting member, and result in the elaboration of a multi-annual implementation plan.

IV. Miscellaneous

This Declaration of interest shall not be construed or interpreted as creating an agent, representative or partnership with other former or later signatories of the same declaration of interest.

This Declaration shall not involve any exchange of funds or payment with other, former, or later signatories of the same declaration of interest.

Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed as preventing or limiting the signatory from discussing or entering into a commitment with other signatories or third parties on similar purpose.

This Declaration constitutes an expression of interest only and nothing herein shall be construed as creating a legally binding commitment, financial or otherwise. The signatory recognizes that this Declaration of interest is strictly limited to the scope described herein and does not entail any commitments which shall only arise pursuant to subsequently dedicated provisions.

Subject to its prior written approval, the signatory agrees that its name and logo can be used on a free of charge, non-exclusive, non-transferable basis for the sole promotion of the creation of a Space4Ocean Alliance in the conditions above described in this Declaration of Interest.

Collaboration and exchange of information and documents in the frame of this Declaration will be without prejudice to arrangements which may be required to safeguard the confidential and restricted character of certain information and documents.

The signatory may withdraw from this Declaration of interest by giving one (1) month prior written notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has signed the Declaration in two (2) originals.