



# LISBON DECLARATION

## Accelerating Coral Reef-Positive Investment

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**Recognizing** that coral reefs are one of the most biodiverse ecosystems and support an estimated 25% of marine life on Earth.

**Recognizing** that an estimated 1 billion people depend on coral reefs and the estimated USD 2.7 trillion annual value of coral reefs ecosystem services including the critical role of coastal protection, food security, and income, that reflects the capacity of coral reefs to act as an engine for sustainable economic development.

**Emphasizing** that up to 90% of coral reefs are threatened and may disappear by 2050 due to human activities and climate change.

**Recognizing** the substantial financing gap to ensure effective conservation and resilience of coral reefs around the World.

**Recognizing** that in December of 2019, at the 34th International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) General Meeting, ICRI adopted a Resolution solidifying widespread support for the establishment of the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) noting the widely recognized need to eliminate the “coral reef funding gap”.

**Acknowledging** that the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, as founding members of the GFCR, have endeavored to convene a powerful coalition of philanthropies, States, United Nations Agencies, organizations, and private investors committed to scaling up reef-positive investments globally.

**Recognizing** the role of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in launching the GFCR in partnership with the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

**Acknowledging** that the GFCR was launched during the 75th United Nations General Assembly in September 2020, and that its main objective is to prevent the extinction of coral reefs in our lifetime by eliminating the coral reef financing gap and supporting interventions for their best chance of survival.

**Recognizing** the valuable partnerships GFCR has established with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Coral Research and Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to advance reef conservation efforts.

**Welcoming** efforts by reef countries to accelerate protection of climate-resilient reefs and ward against local pressures reducing the resilience of reefs to withstand climate impacts.

**Emphasizing** that the GFCR is instrumental to expand and diversify the SDG14 funding landscape for reef-positive solutions.



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### We:

1. **Recognize** and celebrate the diverse and strong coalition of partners that have committed to support the GFCR:
  - **Philanthropies:** Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Builders Vision, Bloomberg Philanthropies
  - **Donor States:** Government of Germany, Government of the United Kingdom, Government of France, Government of Canada
  - **UN Agencies:** UNCDF, UNEP, UNDP
  - **Investment Partners:** Pegasus Capital Advisors, Green Climate Fund (GCF);
2. **Celebrate** GFCR progress in partnership with reef countries, in the development of a global portfolio of programmes to scale resilience of high-value ecosystems through innovative investment and financial tools;
3. **Reaffirm** our commitment for GFCR to reinforce ocean resilience and contribute to meeting the targets of UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 'Life Below Water';
4. **Reaffirm** our commitment for GFCR to serve as a coalition focused on facilitating a blended finance approach that seeks to achieve measurable positive impacts in resilient coral reef ecosystems, and which also contributes to measurable impacts on additional SDGs;
5. **Reaffirm** our commitment for GFCR to build on diverse and effective partnerships among coral reef stakeholders; strengthen local capacity; link traditional knowledge and science; and promote long-term community stewardship of coral reef ecosystems, marine natural capital, and associated sustainable livelihoods;
6. **Recognize** the importance of GFCR as a key blended finance vehicle dedicated to the ocean within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;

### Furthermore, we pledge to:

7. **Elevate** the need for urgent action to protect coral reefs and associated marine ecosystems within the global development, biodiversity, and climate agendas;
8. **Support** GFCR efforts in its ambition to scale-up coral reef positive investments in over 25 priority countries harboring coral reefs;
9. **Endorse** the efforts of the GFCR coalition and global team to convene additional donors and raise the GFCR public-private resource mobilization ambition beyond USD \$625 million; and
10. **Support** efforts to expand key partnerships dedicated to ocean action and promote further collaboration to protect climate-resilient reefs and coastal communities.



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29 June 2022 · Lisbon, Portugal

On behalf of the Prince Albert  
II of Monaco Foundation:

On behalf of Paul G. Allen  
Family Foundation:

On behalf of the Government  
of Germany:

On behalf of the United  
Kingdom:

On behalf of the Green  
Climate Fund:

On behalf of the Government  
of France:

On behalf of Builders Vision:

On behalf of Bloomberg  
Philanthropy:

On behalf of the Government  
of Canada:

On behalf of Pegasus Capital  
Advisors:

On behalf of the United Nations  
Capital Development Fund:

On behalf of the United Nations  
Environment Programme:

On behalf of the United Nations  
Development Programme: