



**STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF IAN (INTERNATIONAL AQUARIUM NETWORK)  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL AQUARIUM CONGRESS IN FUKUSHIMA, JAPAN,  
TO HELP THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND THE VERY WORRYING SITUATION THAT THE PLANET IS IN  
AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND.**

**STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF IAN TO ENCOURAGE DECISION-MAKERS  
TO TAKE ACTION TO AVERT THIS PREDICTED CATASTROPHE.**

**To limit global warming, we need a healthy ocean.**

The goal of the Paris Agreement, which was reached at COP 21 in 2015 and signed by 197 countries, is to limit the average rise in temperatures to a maximum of 1.5°C by 2100. But according to the report by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) that was published at the beginning of October 2018, at the current rate of increase, the world would see a rise of 1.5°C much sooner, between 2030 and 2052. So we could expect an increase of 3°C by the end of the century, which would cause major upheaval for life on our planet.

At COP 21 in Paris in 2015, for the first time, the Ocean featured prominently in the text of the Climate Agreement. Its central role in the planet's climate system was finally recognised. The Ocean limits warming: over 90% of the excess heat generated by the increase in the greenhouse effect linked to human activities has been absorbed by the sea! The ocean also absorbs a quarter of the carbon dioxide emitted by human activities. So it mitigates the increase in the temperature of the atmosphere and moderates climate fluctuations, which would be much more rapid and intense if they were only controlled by the atmosphere.

**Its importance in climate regulation makes the Ocean central to the economic and social issues surrounding climate change, especially issues concerning environmental migration.**

But although it limits global warming, it is also being seriously disturbed by this major upheaval. Warmer, more acidic and less well oxygenated, it is being transformed. Its role in regulation, the things it does to help the ecosystem and the biodiversity that it harbours are under threat. The changes that the ocean is experiencing are contributing to a rise in the sea level and an increase in the frequency of destructive weather events, such as cyclonic storms or tides with very large ranges.

These significant changes in the marine environment bring consequences for the safety and vulnerability of human communities (flooding, coastal erosion, salinisation of soil and reserves of drinking water) and for the economic activities that depend on the ocean (fishing, tourism) and can cause migratory movements.

The ability of the planet and its populations to absorb climate shocks and the ways in which they adapt to imbalances are linked to the scale of the warming. The most vulnerable regions, such as small island states, may not have time to adapt. But we are all affected!

**We, aquariums of the world, urge decision-makers to address this alarming situation. Preserving the Ocean will limit the warming of the Planet. Let's mobilise ourselves and our public.**

**For our part, we raise awareness amongst 500 million people every year in order to help everyone to understand the challenges facing the Planet, the importance of the Ocean and the urgent need to come up with a way of life that can combat the upheaval in the climate while there is still time.**

**"To understand the reality of global warming,  
you need to have water in your living room."**

*Mohamed Nasheed, former President of the Republic of Maldives  
interview with Le Monde, 7 February 2012*



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