This statement was prepared by the members of the Monaco Commission on Ocean Pollution and Human Health, whose work was the subject of a special report published in the journal "Annals of Global Health" on 3 December 2020.

The authors of this report are:

The following Declaration: "Advancing Human Health & Well-Being by Preventing Ocean Pollution" was adopted in the concluding session of the Monaco International Symposium, "Human Health and the Ocean in a Changing World" held in Monaco on December 2-3, 2020 under the high patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

This Declaration summarizes the key findings and conclusions of the Monaco Commission on Human Health and Ocean Pollution. It is based on the recognition that all life on Earth depends on the health of the seas. It presents a call to action--an urgent message addressed to leaders in all countries and to all citizens of Earth urging us to safeguard human health and preserve our Common Home by acting now to end pollution of the ocean.

The Declaration was endorsed by the scientists, physicians and global stakeholders who participated in the Symposium in-person in Monaco and virtually from around the world.

H.S.H. Prince Albert II

The OCEAN POLLUTION-BERG
PLASTIC WASTE IS JUST THE TIP OF A LARGER PROBLEM

THE WAY FORWARD
This Declaration is just the beginning of a journey to end ocean pollution. We are committed to continuing our work in the years ahead and invite all nations, organizations, and individuals to join us on this path to a safer, healthier world for all life on Earth.

For more information, see the full pack:
http://bit.ly/1zPAkTz

THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:
"ADVANCING HUMAN HEALTH & WELL-BEING
BY PREVENTING OCEAN POLLUTION" WAS
ADOPTED IN THE CONCLUDING SESSION
OF THE MONACO INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM,
"HUMAN HEALTH AND THE OCEAN
IN A CHANGING WORLD" HELD IN
MONACO ON DECEMBER 2-3, 2020
UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF
H.S.H. PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO.
The MONACO Declaration
Advancing Human Health & Well-Being by Preventing Ocean Pollution

On 3-2 December 2020, the Centre Scientifique de Monaco, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Boston College convened the Monaco International Symposium on Human Health & the Ocean in a Changing World in partnership with the Government of the Principality of Monaco, the European Marine Board, the European Centre for Environment & Human Health, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the French National Oceanic Institute for Science (OFIRESM), the Mediterranean Science Commission Committee, the Scopus Institute of Oceanography, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the World Health Organization (WHO) under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Symposium participants presented comprehensive, up-to-date information on all forms of ocean pollution and their effects on human health. They examined trends and geographic patterns of ocean pollution and pollution-related disease. They proposed recommendations for the prevention and control of ocean pollution and the improvement of human health and well-being.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE SYMPOSIUM ARE THESE:

A. POLLUTION OF THE OCEANS IS INSURPICAL, WORMENDE, AND IN MANY PLACES UNCONTROLLED. TAKE IMMEDIATE AND CONTINUOUS ACTION THAT AFFECTS UNEARTHED WASTES INTO THE SEA TO THE MAJOR SOURCES.

- Ocean pollution is a complex mixture of plastic, waste, industrial, agricultural, and marine industries, shipping, urban and industrial wastes, pesticides, fertilizers, pharmaceutical waste, agricultural runoff, and sewage.
- More than 80% arise from land-based sources.
- Chemical and plastic pollutants have become ubiquitous in the earth's oceans. They contain bacteria and marine organisms from the Arctic to the abyssal depths.

B. OCEAN POLLUTION HAS MULTIPLE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THESE EFFECTS ARE INCREASING.

- Coal combustion and industrial waste increase levels of mercury, toxins, and point sources of mercury release.
- Plastic microparticles carry multiple toxic chemicals–plastics, pesticides, halogenated flame retardants, organochlorine compounds, and plasticizers–into the marine environment.
- Pollution enters food chains and ecosystems, and accumulates in human tissues.
- Ocean pollution increases risk of cardiovascular disease and accelerates cognitive decline, thus increasing risk of dementia.
- Plastic microplastics and microfibers–the microscopic breakdown products of plastic pollution–penetrate the oceans for years, enter the marine food web, and concentrate in fish and shellfish consumed by humans.
- Plastic microplastics carry toxic chemicals–PEs, phthalates, and bisphenol A–that affect human and marine organisms.
- Plastic pollution affects the marine environment, and is exacerbated by climate change, which increases water temperature and ocean currents.
- Marine organisms face new challenges as they adapt to pollutant exposure and changing conditions.
- Ocean pollution impacts sea life and biodiversity, affecting marine ecosystems and global health.

C. OCEAN POLLUTION IS DEEPLY UNJUST.

- Plastic pollution kills seafood, fish and marine mammals.
- Pharmaceutical waste, chemical pollution and sewage discharge damages fragile habitats and mangrove ecosystems that are the basis of the ocean.
- Ocean pollution harms coastal communities, marine ecosystems, and human health.
- Ocean pollution and coastal communities in the far North, coastal communities in the Global South, and fishing communities worldwide that provide the nations of the world with food security of millions.
- The MONACO Declaration calls upon leaders in all countries and all sectors of society to work together to ensure that the ocean is an asset for the health and well-being of all people.

D. OCEAN POLLUTION IS NOT WELL MANAGED.

- Current knowledge of ocean pollution and its impacts on human health is incomplete.
- Information on the geographic distribution and concentrations of pollutants in the oceans and on the sizes of the human populations exposed to ocean pollution is fragmented and incomplete.
- Conference participants called for this lack of complete information provide no excuse for delay action to control ocean pollution.

E. OCEAN POLLUTION HAS MULTIPLE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THESE EFFECTS ARE INCREASING.

- Ocean pollution includes its impact falls disproportionally on people in small, isolated, and indigenous communities in the far North, coastal communities in the Global South, and fishing communities worldwide that provide the world with food security.
- The MONACO Declaration calls upon leaders in all countries and all sectors of society to work together to ensure that the ocean is an asset for the health and well-being of all people.

World leaders and global citizens who recognize the gravity of ocean pollution, acknowledge its growing dangers, engage civil society, and publicly and globally, and take bold, evidence-based action to stop pollution at source will be critical to preventing ocean pollution and safeguarding human health.

World leaders and global citizens who recognize the gravity of ocean pollution, acknowledge its growing dangers, engage civil society, and publicly and globally, and take bold, evidence-based action to stop pollution at source will be critical to preventing ocean pollution and safeguarding human health.

- Pollution at sea and on land is a major source of toxic mercury, mercury and point sources of mercury release.
- The MONACO Declaration calls upon leaders in all countries and all sectors of society to work together to ensure that the ocean is an asset for the health and well-being of all people.

F. THE GOOD NEWS: OCEAN POLLUTION CAN BE PREVENTED AND CONTROLLED.

- Like all forms of pollution, ocean pollution can be prevented and controlled.
- The key step first is to identify and control the land-based sources that account for 80% of ocean pollution.
- Targeted, data-driven strategies based on law, policy, and technology backed by strong enforcement are essential to achieve control.
- These strategies are highly effective and have achieved significant success against ocean pollution.
- Pollution is no longer than the oceans have been observed, restored, and monitored.
- Interventions to prevent pollution are highly cost-effective. They have been effective, effective, and effective at preventing the pollution. These benefits will last for centuries.
- Prevention and control of ocean pollution have improved human health, prevented disease and extended longevity.

A CALL FOR ACTION TO END OCEAN POLLUTION AND PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Acting on the above conclusions, the participants in the Monaco International Symposium on Human Health & the Ocean in a Changing World call upon leaders in all countries and all citizens of Earth to safeguard their human health and to preserve the beautiful, fragile planet that is our Common Home by taking the following science-based actions:

- Transition rapidly from fossil fuels to renewable energy: wind, solar, tidal and geothermal power.
- Prevent mercury pollution of the oceans by eliminating coal combustion and controlling industrial uses of mercury and point sources of mercury release.
- End plastic pollution of the oceans by reducing plastic production and imposing a global ban on production of single-use plastic.
- Reduce agricultural releases of nitrogen, phosphorus and animal waste; industrial discharges; and releases of human sewage into coastal waters.
- Promote effective waste management and recycling.
- Support robust monitoring of ocean pollution.
- Extend international and regional marine pollution control programs to all countries.
- Support research programs that increase knowledge of the extent, severity and human health impacts of ocean pollution.
- Create, expand and safeguard Marine Protected Areas.
The MONACO Declaration
Advancing Human Health & Well-Being by Preventing Ocean Pollution

On 2-3 December 2020, the Centre Scientifique de Monaco, the Prince Albert II de Monaco Foundation and Boston College convened the Monaco International Symposium on Human Health & The Ocean in a Changing World in partnership with the Government of the Principality of Monaco, the European Marine Board, the European Centre for Environment & Human Health, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the French National Oceanic Institute for Science (OFRE), the Mediterranean Science Commission (Mediterranean Science Commission), the Ecologie Institute of Oceanography, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the World Health Organization (WHO) under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

The participants presented comprehensive, up-to-date information on all forms of ocean pollution and their effects on human health. They examined trends and geographic patterns of ocean pollution and pollution-related disease. They proposed recommendations for the prevention and control of ocean pollution and the improvement of human health and well-being.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE SYMPOSIUM ARE THESE:

A. POLLUTION OF THE OCEANS IS MISERABLE, WORRISESS, AND IN MANY PLACES ALREADY A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH AND THE LOCAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

- Ocean pollution is a complex mixture of plastic, waste, industrial pollutants, sewage, and fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, and agricultural runoff.
- More than 80% arises from land-based sources.
- Chemical spills and plastic pollutants have become ubiquitous in the earth’s oceans. They contaminate eco and marine systems from the Arctic to the abyssal depths.
- The consequences are alarming.

B. OCEAN POLLUTION HAS MULTIPLE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON MARINE HEALTH AND WEALTH, BEING THE MAGNITUDE, SEVERITY AND GEOGRAPHIC RANGE OF THESE EFFECTS ARE INCREASING.

- Petrochemicals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the oceans threaten the marine microorganisms that produce much of the earth's oxygen supply.
- Mercury pollution of the oceans causes high levels of contamination in tuna and other widely eaten fish. Gluttony, stomach, and mercury kills fish. Mercury enters their bodies and can damage their children's developing brains. The consequences are lifelong reductions in intelligence (IQ), developmental delays, and increased risk of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

C. OCEAN POLLUTION HAS MULTIPLE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEAN ACIDIFICATION PRESENT AND ENACTED IN THE BIGHTS.

- Plastic pollution kills seabirds, fish, and marine mammals.
- Pharmaceutical waste, chemical pollution and sewage discharge damage fragile estuaries and mangrove ecosystems that are the nursery of the sea.
- Chemicals and plastics and pharmaceutical pollutants destroy coral reefs.
- Plastic pollution also contributes to declines in fish stocks and threatens food security of millions.

D. OCEAN POLLUTION IS DEEPLY UNJUST.

- Prevention and control of ocean pollution have lagged.
- Targeted, data-driven strategies based on law, policy, and technology and backed by strong enforcement are based sources that account for 80% of ocean pollution.
- Chemical pollutants and pharmaceutical wastes destroy marine health, and wellbeing.

E. OCEAN POLLUTION IS NOT WELL MAPPED.

- Current knowledge of ocean pollution and its impacts on human health is incomplete.
- Information on the geographic distribution and concentrations of pollutants in the oceans and on the sizes of the human populations exposed to ocean pollution is fragmentary and confined mostly to areas that border high-income countries.
- Conference participants note that this lack of complete information provides no excuse for delaying action to control ocean pollution.

F. THE GOOD NEWS: OCEAN POLLUTION CAN BE PREVENTED AND CONTROLLED.

- Like all forms of pollution, ocean pollution can be prevented and controlled.
- The key step first is to identify and control the land-based sources that account for 80% of ocean pollution.
- Targeted, data-driven strategies based on law, policy, and technology and backed by strong enforcement are essential to achieve control.
- These strategies are highly effective and have achieved significant success against ocean pollution.

World leaders and global citizens who recognize the gravity of ocean pollution, acknowledge its growing dangers, engage civil society and the global public, and take bold, evidence-based action to stop pollution at source will be critical to preventing ocean pollution and safeguarding human health.

PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

A CALL FOR ACTION TO END OCEAN POLLUTION AND PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Acting on the above Conclusions, the participants in the Monaco International Symposium on Human Health & The Ocean in a Changing World call upon leaders in all countries and all citizens of Earth to safeguard human health and to preserve the beautiful, but fragile planet that is our Common Home by taking the following science-based actions:

- Transition rapidly from fossil fuels to renewable energy: wind, solar, tidal, and geothermal power.
- Prevent mercury pollution of the oceans by eliminating coal combustion and controlling industrial uses of mercury and point sources of mercury release.
- End plastic pollution of the oceans by reducing plastic production and imposing a global ban on production of single-use plastic.
- Reduce agricultural releases of nitrogen, phosphorus, and animal waste; industrial discharges; and releases of human sewage into coastal waters.
- Promote effective waste management and recycling.
- Support robust monitoring of ocean pollution.
- Extend regional and international marine pollution control programs to all countries.
- Support research programs that increase knowledge of the extent, severity and humanhealth impacts of ocean pollution.
- Create, expand and safeguard Marine Protected Areas.
The MONACO Declaration

Advancing Human Health & Well-Being by Preventing Ocean Pollution

The Statement was prepared by the members of the Monaco Commission on Ocean Pollution and Human Health, whose work was the subject of a special report published in the journal “Annals of Global Health” on 2020 December 2, 2020.

The authors of this report are:

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The following Declaration: “ADVANCING HUMAN HEALTH & WELL-BEING BY PREVENTING OCEAN POLLUTION” was adopted in the concluding session of the MONACO INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM “HUMAN HEALTH AND THE OCEAN IN A CHANGING WORLD” HELD IN MONACO ON DECEMBER 2-3, 2020 UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF H.S.H. PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO.

This Declaration summarizes the key findings and conclusions of the Monaco Commission on Human Health and Ocean Pollution. It is based on the recognition that all life on Earth depends on the health of the seas. It presents a call to act now to end pollution of the ocean.

This Declaration was endorsed by the scientists, physicians and global stakeholders who participated in the symposium in-person in Monaco and virtually on 3 December 2020.

It is based on the scientific communications presented at the symposium “Human Health and The Ocean” held in Monaco on December 2 and 3, 2020, thanks to the support of all partners.

H.S.H. Prince Albert II
The MONACO Declaration
Advancing Human Health & Well-Being by Preventing Ocean Pollution

On 3-2 December 2020, the Centre Scientifique de Monaco, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Boston College convened the Monaco International Symposium on Human Health & The Ocean in a Changing World in partnership with the Government of the Principality of Monaco, the European Marine Board, the European Centre for Environment & Health, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the French National Oceanic Institute for Science (IFREMER), the Mediterranean Science Commission-Corporate Institute, the Zoological Institute of Oceanography, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the World Health Organization (WHO) under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco. The Symposium participants presented comprehensive, up-to-date information on all forms of ocean pollution and their effects on human health. They examined trends and geographic patterns of ocean pollution and pollution-related disease. They proposed recommendations for the prevention and control of ocean pollution and the improvement of human health and well-being.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE SYMPOSIUM ARE THESE:

A. OCEAN POLLUTION IS MISCELLANEOUS, WIDESPREAD, AND IN MANY PLACES AN ACTUALLY ACTIVITY THAT RELEASED UNHEALTHY WATER INTO THE OCEAN IS THE MAJOR SOURCE.

- Ocean pollution is a complex mixture of plastic waste, livestock, raw material, commercial, industrial and municipal waste, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, sewage, agricultural runoff, and seaweed.
- More than 80% arises from land-based sources.
- Chemical and plastic pollutants have become ubiquitous in the earth’s oceans. They contaminate most marine organisms and the Arctic-Oceano to the abyssal depths.

- Can contribute to power plants and factories in the main source of marine mercury pollution.
- Gold mining is a second source.
- Coal combustion in power plants and factories is the main source of marine mercury pollution.
- Mercury poisoning comprises carcinogenic, neurotoxic, and neurodevelopmental effects.
- Mercury is a potent neurotoxin. It crosses the placenta and enters the developing brain of the fetus, causing irreversible damage. Mercury enter the body and can damage the child’s developing brain. The consequences are lifelong: reduced intelligence, delayed motor skills, and increased risk of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

B. OCEAN POLLUTION HAS MULTIPLE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ARE EXACERBATING THESE EFFECTS.

- Plastic pollution kills seabirds, fish, and marine mammals.
- Pharmaceutical waste, chemical pollution and sewage discharge damage fragile ecosystems and discourage species that are the breeding places of the sea.
- Chemicals, pollutants and pharmaceutical waste destroy coral reefs.

- Plastic pollution contributes to declines in fish stocks and threatens food security of millions.
- Toxic substances added to plastics, including so-called biodegradable plastics, persist in the marine environment for years, enter the marine food web and concentrate in fish and shellfish consumed by humans.
- Microplastics carry toxic chemicals in the ocean.
- Microplastics and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the oceans threaten the marine microorganisms that produce much of the earth's oxygen supply.
- Marine pollution of the oceans increases high levels of contamination in tuna and other widely eaten fish. When pregnant mothers eat mercury-contaminated fish, mercury enters their bodies and can damage their children's developing brains. The consequences are lifelong: reduced intelligence (IQ), developmental delays, and increased risk of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

C. OCEAN POLLUTION HAS MULTIPLE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. THE MAGNITUDE, SEVERITY AND GEOGRAPHIC RANGES OF THESE EFFECTS ARE INCREASING.

- In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 1 million deaths occurred due to pollution-related disease.
- The WHO Global Burden of Disease 2017 estimated that pollution caused 11% of the global burden of disease.
- Ocean pollution has multiple harmful effects on human health and well-being.
- Plastic pollution kills seabirds, fish, and marine mammals.
- Pharmaceutical waste, chemical pollution and sewage discharge damage fragile ecosystems and discourage species that are the breeding places of the sea.
- Chemicals, pollutants and pharmaceutical waste destroy coral reefs.

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D. OCEAN POLLUTION IS DEEPLY UNJUST.

- The Global South, and fishing communities worldwide, are being affected by ocean pollution.
- The impact of ocean pollution has been exacerbated by climate change and ocean acidification. Ocean acidification destroys coral reefs, that are the nurseries of the sea.
- The magnitude, severity and human health impacts of ocean pollution will be exacerbated by climate change and ocean acidification.

E. OCEAN POLLUTION IS NOT WELL MAPPED.

- Information on the geographic distribution and concentrations of pollutants in the oceans and on the sizes of the human populations exposed to ocean pollution is fragmentary and confined mainly to coastal areas that border high-income countries.
- Conference participants noted that this lack of complete information provides no excuse for delaying action to control ocean pollution.

World leaders and global citizens who recognize the gravity of ocean pollution, acknowledge its growing dangers, engage civil society and the public, and take bold, evidence-based action to stop pollution at source will be critical to preventing ocean pollution and safeguarding human health.

The Good News: Ocean Pollution Can Be Prevented and Controlled.

- Like all forms of pollution, ocean pollution can be prevented and controlled.
- The key step first is to identify and control the land-based sources that account for 90% of ocean pollution.
- Targeted, data-driven strategies based on land, policy, and technology and backed by strong enforcement are essential to achieve control.
- These strategies are highly effective and have achieved significant successes against ocean pollution.
- Pollution control has been achieved in estuaries rejuvenated, and coral reefs restored.
- Interventions against ocean pollution are highly cost-effective. They have boosted economies, increased fish catches, and promoted food security.

A CALL FOR ACTION TO END OCEAN POLLUTION AND PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Acting on the above Conclusions, the participants in the Monaco International Symposium on Human Health & The Ocean in a Changing World call upon leaders in all countries and all citizens of Earth to safeguard human health and to preserve the beautiful, but fragile planet that is our Common Home by taking the following science-based actions:

- Transition rapidly from fossil fuels to renewable energy: wind, solar, tidal, and geothermal power.
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- Reduce agricultural releases of nitrogen, phosphorus and animal waste; industrial discharges; and releases of human sewage into coastal waters.
- Promote effective waste management and recycling.
- Support robust monitoring of ocean pollution.
- Extend regional and international marine pollution control programs to all countries.
- Support research programs that increase knowledge of the extent, severity and human health impacts of ocean pollution.
- Create, expand and safeguard Marine Protected Areas.
This statement was prepared by the members of the Monaco Commission on Ocean Pollution and Human Health, whose work was the subject of a special report published in the journal "Annals of Global Health" on 23 December 2020.

The authors of this report are:

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- Corra Lilian

It is also based on the scientific communications presented at the symposium "Human Health and Ocean Pollution. Annals of Global Health, 86(1), p.151.

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Human health and its interactions with other issues is currently at the heart of many of our concerns: biodiversity, with zoonotic diseases such as the Coronavirus disease, and we also know of course that it is vital to break away from all of this if we want to ensure the health of the human population.

We know the consequences of the proliferation of micro-plastics, the haphazard use of plastic, to the lack of waste sorting and recycling infrastructure, and more generally to our dependence on hydrocarbons. And we also know of course that it is vital to break away from all of this if we want to ensure the health of the human population.

This Declaration summarizes the key findings and conclusions of the Monaco Commission on Human Health and Ocean Pollution. It is based on the recognition that all life on Earth depends on the health of the seas. It presents a Call to Action - an urgent message addressed to leaders in all countries and to all citizens of Earth urging us to safeguard human health and preserve our oceans by acting now to end pollution of the ocean.

The Declaration was endorsed by the scientists, physicians and global stakeholders who participated in the Symposium in-person in Monaco and virtually from around the world.


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It is also based on the scientific communications presented at the symposium "Human Health and The Ocean: A Changing World" held in Monaco on December 2 and 3, 2020, thanks to the support of all the following partners:

- Advancing Human Health & Well-Being
- THE MONACO DECLARATION
- THE MONACO INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM