

# THE ~ CHARTER



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# The Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition: A Turning Point for Cities and Regions Facing Ocean Changes

There is an urgent need for a collective mobilisation and political leadership to support coastal cities and regions in accelerating adaptation and resilience to sea level rise and ocean changes. To that end, the third United Nations Ocean Conference will mark the launch of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition for Cities and Regions fostering collaboration between coastal cities and regions, scientific institutions, financial players, and committed stakeholders.

Coastal cities and regions are at the forefront of climate-induced ocean changes, acting as both first responders and long-term planners. The impacts of rising sea levels, extreme climate events such as heavy rainfall, storms and cyclones, extreme sea levels, and of human activities pose significant threats, including land loss, chronic flooding, coastal erosion, subsidence, and the salinisation of freshwater reserves. These challenges endanger local identities and cultures, vital infrastructure, economic activities, natural ecosystems, and the well-being of communities, with the most vulnerable populations at risk of irreversible loss and damage to their livelihoods. While adaptation efforts are underway, they would benefit from being more coordinated, transformative, just

and sustainable to rise to the challenge of climate change. By looking beyond past and present conditions, cities and regions can design strategies that truly prepare communities for future challenges.

Cities and regions are uniquely positioned to lead on adaptation strategies and initiatives. With their deep understanding of local needs and challenges, local governments are already driving ambitious adaptation strategies that protect communities and enhance resilience. By strengthening financial, human, and technical capacities, cities and regions could better move from planning to implementation, ensuring that adaptation efforts are transformative and proactive rather than reactive and fragmented.

Ultimately, the sustainability of any adaptation strategy depends on the early, sustained, and inclusive involvement of local communities and stakeholders. By co-defining clear objectives with local populations, cities and regions can maximise the social benefits of adaptation measures and planning, creating more inclusive and resilient futures, ensuring that communities most affected by climate change are actively involved in shaping solutions and a desirable future for the coast.

# The Call from the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

The Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition responds to an urgent call from Mayors, Governors, Presidents, Ministers, and all heads of local governments for practical action and lasting partnerships. Designed as a collective platform, the Coalition aims to secure resources, connect expertise, and amplify local leadership on the global stage.

All of them united, therefore, urge the international community, along with national, regional, and local governments, financial institutions, and scientific organisations, to support the Coalition's core priorities:



## **MOBILISATION**

Connecting coastal leaders and practitioners to share real-world and locally viable solutions and lessons learnt, promoting dynamic, hybrid and nature-based approaches to safeguard people, infrastructure, and ecosystems;



## **KNOWLEDGE**

Mobilising scientific expertise, local and Indigenous knowledge to guide risk-informed adaptation and resilience planning;



## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Facilitating access to strategic partnerships and capacity-building opportunities to empower local players in driving community-led adaptation efforts.



## **FINANCE**

Accelerating access to public funding and private finance to support locally-led, scalable and sustainable adaptation solutions and strategies;



## **ADVOCACY**

Elevating the voice and needs of coastal cities and regions in global and national decision-making spaces.

# **Joining the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition**

The Coalition aims to enable coastal cities and regions to lead the way in building resilient and desirable coastal futures, with the backing and resources they need.

**By joining the Coalition, cities and regions will gain access to direct capacity-building, partnerships, and financing opportunities to accelerate site-specific adaptation.**

**Joining the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition is:**

- **A pledge to contribute to a global vision of sustainable and equitable coastal development**, as the Coalition provides a platform to advocate for the needs of coastal cities and regions, ensuring their voices are heard in shaping international and local policies and initiatives.
- **An act of voluntary commitment to adaptation**, as the Coalition offers access to advanced resources, including cutting-edge scientific knowledge, indigenous and local knowledge, innovative data tools, and proven methodologies, empowering Members to develop and implement robust, locally relevant adaptation strategies and related sustainable transition plans.
- **Becoming part of a forward-thinking and proactive community of leaders dedicated to safeguarding coastal territories**, as the Coalition fosters meaningful collaborations among its Members, creating opportunities to connect with like-minded leaders, experts, and organizations worldwide.
- **A strategic opportunity to unlock funding and technical support for local adaptation efforts**, as the Coalition serves as a catalyst for securing investments and connecting Members with climate finance mechanisms, grants, and tailored funding opportunities to accelerate and scale impactful adaptation projects.

To support the implementation of adaptation strategies, the Coalition will bring together a diverse network of partners, including networks of local governments, scientific organisations, civil society organisations, financial institutions, and other key stakeholders providing essential resources and expertise to coastal cities and regions. Their contributions may take various forms, including funding, technical expertise, and advocacy for coastal resilience, ensuring that local adaptation efforts are effectively supported, implemented, and scaled.



# Joining the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

**As Title:**\_\_\_\_\_ **of City/Region:**\_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge the urgent need to adapt our coastal communities to the growing threats of climate change.

**I pledge to join the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition** and voluntarily commit to work alongside fellow national and local governments, and key stakeholders to drive meaningful change and build a sustainable and thriving future for our coastal cities and regions.

## **SIGNATURE**

Name:

Title:

Date:



# Endorsing the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

The Coalition's membership is open to coastal local governments and is formally established through the official endorsement of the Charter by the competent local governing body. **Each Member shall designate two focal points: (1)** one representative from the Heads of Local Governments' Office or the relevant department in charge of foreign relations, and **(2)** one technical representative with appropriate expertise (e.g., urban planning, land use management, coastal and environmental management, nature-based solutions, sustainable development).

Membership is **voluntary**, free of charge, and does not create any legal obligations or liabilities for the participating entities.

However, by endorsing the Coalition, Members are making the voluntary commitment to implement actions aligned with the Coalition's objectives to adapt and strengthen their resilience, falling under multiple categories:

- **Learning**  
Actively engage in training activities, workshops, and learning sessions to build capacity for addressing coastal climate challenges.
- **Sharing**  
Foster collaboration and accelerate the implementation of best practices by sharing critical data, strategies, and outcomes from local adaptation initiatives.
- **Regulating**  
Develop and enforce policies, guidelines, and regulations that promote sustainable coastal management and resilience-building measures.
- **Implementing**  
Participate in developing a resilience roadmap, initiating public awareness campaigns, leading advocacy efforts, or implementing tangible adaptation projects to protect communities.
- **Raising awareness**  
Promote ocean literacy and community engagement through public campaigns, educational programs, and stakeholder dialogues to enhance understanding of coastal resilience challenges and solutions.



# Endorsing the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

## FOCAL POINT 1

Name:

Function:

Email:

Phone number:

## FOCAL POINT 2

Name:

Function:

Email:

Phone number:

The Charter is to be returned to the email address : [seaties-support@ocean-climate.org](mailto:seaties-support@ocean-climate.org)  
and [Coalition-ocean@ville-nice.fr](mailto:Coalition-ocean@ville-nice.fr)

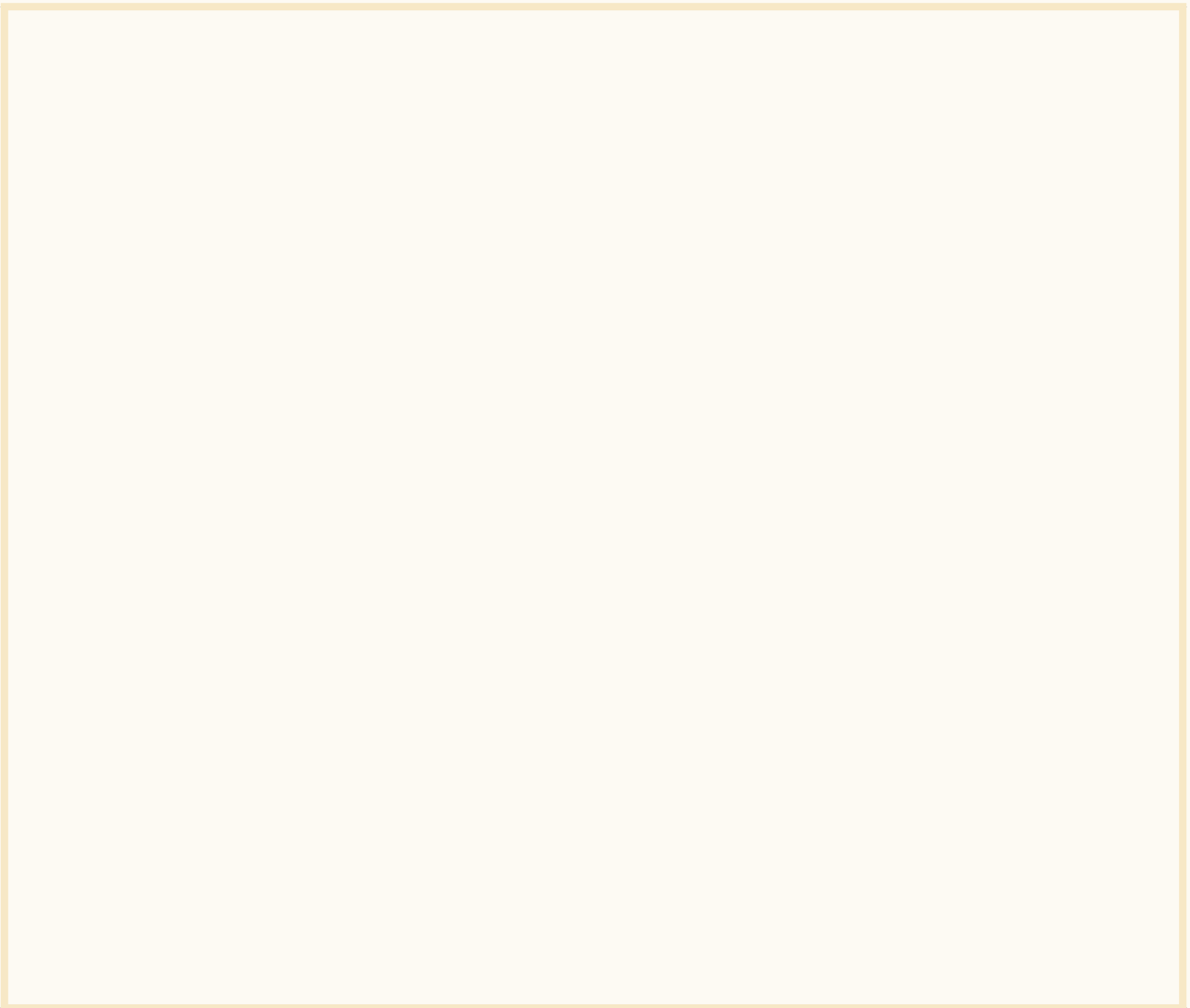


# Sharing your Challenges and Initiatives

In accordance with the commitments outlined in the Charter, Heads of local governments are invited to **share their experiences and insights** regarding the challenges identified in the Roadmap of the Coalition.

We encourage signatories of the Charter to indicate which of these challenges they are currently facing, provide relevant details on their impact, and highlight any ongoing projects or initiatives implemented to address them.

This exchange of challenges and best practices will help the Coalition Secretariat develop effective and sustainable activities for its Members.



# OCEAN RISE

& COASTAL RESILIENCE  
COALITION FOR CITIES & REGIONS

An initiative of



With the support of

*Financial partners*



*Member organisations of the Steering Committee*

