

Motion on the Coral Reef Breakthrough

*Proposed for adoption at the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 37th General Meeting (United States of America)
Proposed by the ICRI Secretariat*

Noting the release of the “Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020” report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) in October 2021, the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6 Synthesis released in March 2023, and the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), agreed at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022.

Recognising that, over one billion people, including vulnerable coastal communities, are dependent on the ecosystem goods and services provided by coral reefs, from food security, fisheries, revenue from tourism, medicinal properties, protection from storms and floods, and significant cultural heritage, with an estimated global value of USD \$9.9 trillion per year.

Highlighting that the world has lost 14 percent of the coral on its coral reefs since 2009, and despite being a cornerstone of marine health and climate resilience, current projections demonstrate the risk of 90 percent of the world’s remaining coral reefs disappearing by 2050.

Acknowledging that coral reefs face unprecedented threats from a multitude of stressors and require proactive measures to be taken to stop local drivers of decline, scale restoration efforts focused on the integrity and resilience of coral reef ecosystems and close the coral reef finance gap to reduce harmful economic incentives.

Understanding that the ecosystem services provided by coral reefs and related ecosystems are especially vital to deliver the nature-dependent United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 14 “life below water”, and the wider international agenda.

Noting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 27 Presidency launch of the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda in partnership with the High-Level Champions and the launch of the Race to Resilience campaign by the UN Climate Action High-level Champions in January 2021 at the Climate Adaptation Summit, alongside the State-Driven Adaptation Action Coalition.

Acknowledging the intention of the Race to Resilience to catalyse a step-change in global ambition for climate resilience by 2030, by non-state actors to build the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risk, through the establishment of ‘Breakthroughs’ that mark significant transformation of an economic sector or natural system, converging actors on a common set of clear, simple goals.

Responding to the Race to Resilience’s request to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, to establish a 2030 breakthrough focused on Coral Reefs – the Coral Reef Breakthrough.

Noting that the International Coral Reef Initiative is the global partnership of Nations and organisations striving to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world, including 45 Nations that represent over 75% of the world’s coral reefs.

Acknowledging the intention of the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, and the High-level Climate Champions Race to Resilience to launch the Coral Reef Breakthrough at the 37th International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting and the UNFCCC COP28 in the United Arab Emirates.

The General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative:

Recognises the value of the 2030 Coral Reef Breakthrough to facilitate a global resilience lifeline for coral reefs and the one-billion people that depend on them to collectively conserve, protect and restore coral reefs at the scale needed and catalyse public and private financial flows, and supporting sustainable business models.

Notes the establishment of two global 2030 targets to activate and mobilise actions to achieve the 2030 targets set by the high-level climate champions Race to Resilience and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Understands the development of the science-based Breakthrough targets through the convening of over 30 coral reef experts.

Invites ICRI Members to recognise and contribute to the Coral Reef Breakthrough targets and guiding principles in 2023 to 2030, as appropriate.

Notes the opportunities to raise the visibility of the Coral Reef Breakthrough during 2023 major meetings, including the 78th United Nations General Assembly, the UNFCCC COP28, CBD COP26, the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly, and other major meetings and international events.

Notes that ICRI members, in their individual capacity, and as they deem appropriate, may wish to endorse or otherwise support the Coral Reef Breakthrough.