



## **BORACAY CALL FOR ACTION**

We, the mayors, governors, and representatives of local and regional governments in Asia and the Pacific, gathered for the First Session of the 2025 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau with the theme “The Integrated Coastal Management: Promoting Blue Economy for Sustainable Development” from 9 to 11 June 2025 in Boracay, Aklan, Philippines. Through the discussions on integrated coastal management and maritime governance, blue economy and sustainable tourism, circular economy and waste management, and water management, we reaffirmed our collective leadership and shared responsibility in promoting sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient coastal governance.

We expressed concern that the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on clean water and sanitation and SDG 14 on life below water indicators mostly remain slow, and some are alarmingly regressing. There is an urgent need to accelerate actions, particularly on permanent water body extent and sustainable fisheries.

We took note of the Local and Regional Authorities Declaration on Water for Shared Prosperity from the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum held in Bali, Indonesia. We acknowledged that water is a global common good and an essential public service.

We welcomed the adoption of The Boracay Declaration and Call to Action by local government units in the Philippines. We recognised the strong political will and unified stance on coastal and maritime governance.

We committed to:

1. Strengthen local coastal governance through Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) frameworks that bridge land-sea planning, enhance inter-agency coordination, and align local actions with global and regional targets—including the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
2. Promote a regenerative Blue Economy that places people and ecosystems at the centre, ensuring that marine-based economic activities—such as fisheries, aquaculture, tourism,

- renewable energy, and biotechnology—generate inclusive prosperity without undermining marine biodiversity and cultural heritage.
3. Advance circular economy practices to combat marine pollution and unsustainable consumption, including through local ordinances, infrastructure for waste reduction and resource recovery, support for micro, small and medium enterprises, and partnerships that foster zero-waste innovation in coastal zones. Enhancement on local economy development is essential in achieving inclusive growth.
  4. Improve local water governance and climate adaptation, especially in vulnerable coastal and urban areas, by integrating watershed rehabilitation, flood control, nature-based solutions, and community-based monitoring into policy and infrastructure planning.
  5. Guarantee that water as a resource is valued economically, culturally, socially, and sustainably. The true value of water is essential in ensuring equitable access to water, particularly for the most vulnerable sectors of society.
  6. Strive to allocate annual budget for integrated coastal management, ensuring that our mandates and initiatives have the necessary means of implementation.
  7. Empower communities and elevate traditional ecological knowledge, especially the voices of women, youth, fisherfolk, and indigenous populations, as co-creators of sustainable coastal solutions and long-term stewards of marine resources.
  8. Foster regional decentralised cooperation, city-to-city knowledge exchange, and peer learning networks that scale innovation, build capacity, and amplify the voice of local governments in international marine governance processes.
  9. Embed coastal resilience and sustainability in long-term planning frameworks, integrating short-term adaptive actions within broader institutional, economic, and spatial development plans to ensure continuity, coherence, and impact.

Furthermore, we called for:

1. Collaboration with national governments, international and financial institutions, development agencies, research communities, private sector actors, academia, local government associations, and civil society organisations to enable transformative change from the ground up. The success of national and global agendas on ocean health, climate adaptation, and sustainable development hinges on local systems being formally recognised and equitably resourced.
2. Reform of climate and environmental finance systems to allow for direct and simplified access by local authorities. An enabling environment—legal, financial, institutional, and capacity—is essential if local governments are to lead as they must.
3. Building the capacity of cities and local governments through measurable programmes enabled by digital technologies.

As we look toward 2030 and beyond, we reaffirm that coastal resilience is local resilience. It is forged with communities through local leadership, collective action, and unwavering commitment. The future of our seas begins in our cities and municipalities.

Adopted on 11 June 2025 in Boracay, Aklan, Philippines.