

Statements received from  
invited guests on the  
occasion of the OSPAR  
Ministerial Meeting 2025



# List of statements

The Bonn Agreement

Inuit Circumpolar Council

North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors

Saami Council



The Bonn Agreement is the sister organisation of OSPAR. This relationship goes beyond sharing a Secretariat as well as financial and contractual rules, they form the backbone of an ecosystem committed to maintaining a healthy North Sea and North-East Atlantic.

The Bonn Agreement has a long history of successful cooperation to protect the marine environment by responding quickly and effectively to pollution events under a coherent regional strategy. Collaboration is key when dealing with costly operations to prevent and respond to pollution and secure our marine environment

On a regular basis, OSPAR and the Bonn Agreement's subsidiary bodies exchange information and share tasks and actions on common areas of interest such as the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Ship Source Pollution Directive (SSPD), air emissions from shipping, pollution by oil, hazardous substances and plastic pellets. At the last meeting of the Bonn Agreement in May pollution cases of interest to OSPAR were presented: an oil spill of more than 15M3 from a Norwegian offshore platform and UK's response to the MV Solong and the Stena Immaculate incident including the post spill monitoring.

As Chair of the Bonn Agreement, I kindly invite national representatives to establish coordination at national level between OSPAR and Bonn Agreement Heads of Delegation, to reinforce the Memorandum of Understanding between both organisations and particularly to facilitate discussions on financial matters. Given that OSPAR's financial decisions directly impact the Bonn Agreement's budget, such coordination could be beneficial.

We can be proud of our ongoing collaboration and I wish we will continue to use best endeavours to ensure that this remains so in the future.

#### Traduction française:

*L'Accord de Bonn est l'organisation sœur d'OSPAR. Cette relation va au-delà du partage d'un secrétariat ainsi que des règles financières et contractuelles ; elles forment l'épine dorsale d'un écosystème engagé à maintenir une mer du Nord et un Atlantique Nord-Est en bonne santé.*

*L'Accord de Bonn possède une longue tradition de coopération fructueuse pour protéger l'environnement marin en répondant rapidement et efficacement aux événements de pollution dans le cadre d'une stratégie régionale cohérente. La collaboration est essentielle lorsqu'il s'agit d'opérations coûteuses visant à prévenir et à répondre à la pollution et à sécuriser notre environnement marin.*

*Régulièrement, OSPAR et les organes subsidiaires de l'Accord de Bonn échangent des informations et partagent des tâches et des actions sur des domaines d'intérêt commun, tels que la mise en œuvre de la Directive-cadre sur la stratégie marine (MSFD) et la*

*Directive sur la pollution par les navires (SSPD), les émissions aériennes du transport maritime, la pollution par les hydrocarbures, les substances dangereuses et les granulés de plastique. Lors de la dernière réunion de l'Accord de Bonn en mai, des cas de pollution d'intérêt pour OSPAR ont été présentés : une marée noire de plus de 15m<sup>3</sup> provenant d'une plateforme offshore norvégienne et la réponse du Royaume-Uni aux incidents du MV Solong et du Stena Immaculate, y compris le monitoring de suivi après la pollution.*

*En tant que président de l'Accord de Bonn, j'invite aimablement les représentants nationaux à établir une coordination au niveau national entre les Chefs de délégation d'OSPAR et de l'Accord de Bonn, afin de renforcer le Mémorandum d'entente entre les deux organisations et, en particulier, de faciliter les discussions sur les questions financières. Étant donné que les décisions financières d'OSPAR influencent directement le budget de l'Accord de Bonn, une telle coordination pourrait s'avérer bénéfique.*

*Nous pouvons être fiers de notre collaboration jusqu'à présent et je souhaite que nous poursuivions nos efforts pour garantir qu'elle demeure solide à l'avenir.*



Inuit Circumpolar Council Statement  
OSPAR Ministerial Meeting  
Vigo, Spain – June 26, 2025  
Delivered by Axel Ingemann-Jeremiassen

### *COMPARE AGAINST DELIVERY*

Qujanaq, Chair Løvendahl Eskildsen.  
Excellencies, colleagues, Vice President Niko Valkeapää.

It is a pleasure to be here for the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting as an invited guest from the Inuit Circumpolar Council. ICC represents the approximately 180,000 Inuit from Alaska, Canada, Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland), and Chukotka. We work to promote Inuit rights, safeguard the Arctic environment, and protect and promote Inuit ways of life.

We welcome the commitment of OSPAR's Contracting Parties to a healthy, resilient, and sustainably managed marine environment. For Inuit our spiritual and physical health and well-being are intertwined with the health and well-being of the environment; for us, sustainability depends upon a balance between a healthy environment, a thriving economy, and our culture and ways of life.

ICC welcomes OSPAR's endorsement of the UNDRIP, which reaffirms Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination, and thereby reaffirms the commitment of each your Contracting Parties to upholding the collective and individual rights of Indigenous Peoples. We will collaborate with you as you learn to apply UNDRIP to this treaty body.

As a founding member of the Arctic Council, we welcome the intention of OSPAR to strengthen collaboration and cooperation with this preeminent body for Arctic diplomacy and policy. We encourage OSPAR to advance this through direct dialogue with the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations who are Permanent Participants, including ICC and Saami Council.

Inuit have much to contribute to the work of OSPAR. Indigenous-led management of the natural environment is a proven approach for biodiversity conservation. Inuit Knowledge contributes critical insights into the status of the marine environment.

Decisions to govern our waters cannot be made without us. We therefore appreciate the invitation to become Observers at OSPAR.

The ongoing rapid changes in the Arctic impact our rights, our culture, and our health. At OSPAR, Inuit will continue to apply our Knowledge and leadership to addressing these challenges including by advancing effective marine protection in the waters of our homelands.

Qujanaq.

## **Speech NSN Chair on OSPAR Ministerial meeting – June 26<sup>th</sup>**

Ministers, colleagues, esteemed delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors. NSN was set up in 2002 to facilitate the enforcement and prosecution of MARPOL maritime pollution offences in the North Sea. Being an OSPAR subsidiary body, since it was established NSN closely collaborates with the Bonn Agreement to fulfill its commitment.

Today, I would like to highlight not only what the Network is, but also why it continues to be such a vital part of our shared work under OSPAR.

NSN is, by design, informal. That is a strength: it is a convenient forum to exchange best practices, to test ideas, to contact each other in urgent enforcement situations and to support cross-border cases, facilitating the application of formal and sometimes complex procedures.

It also brings together a multidisciplinary community: policy advisors, enforcement officers and public prosecutors gather all around the same table. If required, other experts can also be invited. Every essential part of the enforcement chain is present.

And NSN has a very cooperative mindset. The success of an international organization is determined not least by the attitude of its people. I want to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues in NSN for this good and enjoyable cooperation across international borders.

But: we cannot afford to become complacent. NSN is focused on pollution offences from shipping; these pressures on the North Sea remain and others are growing. Illegal and harmful activities at sea occur—and too often go unpunished. To meet our obligations under OSPAR and to fulfil the ambitions we set today, at this Ministerial meeting, OSPAR should strengthen the enforcement dimension of its work. I call on OSPAR, and its Contracting Parties, to strengthen ties with its enforcement pillar (since I am quite close with the Belgian HOD to OSPAR, I know I have his support). [During discussions in the beginning of this week in the Commission meeting on measures to ban scrubbers in some areas, for instance, multiple enforcement issues have emerged. A close cooperation between NSN and OSPAR might be instrumental to address those.](#)

NSN stands ready to support OSPAR in its endeavor to further improve the enforcement of the OSPAR measures. Upstream, in the decision-making process and downstream, when enforcing adopted measures.

Our beautiful North East Atlantic deserves no less.

Thank you.

**Ministers, delegates,**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Saami Council.

We welcome OSPAR's recognition of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and its commitment to the meaningful engagement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples. These words matter. Now, we must give them life—through action, through structure, and through trust.

Over the past few years, we have worked together to explore how Indigenous Peoples can have a real and respected space within OSPAR's work. That journey must continue—rooted in respect for our rights, our knowledge systems, and our rightful leadership in decisions that shape our homelands and waters.

We are not seeking mere participation, but genuine partnership.

The ocean has always been central to the lives, cultures, and economies of Arctic Indigenous Peoples. For generations, we have relied on its ecosystems—and cared for them. Our relationship with the sea is not symbolic; it is lived, practical, and grounded in responsibility.

We share the same goal: a healthy marine ecosystem that sustains all life. The Saami Council believes that together, we can build a future where our societies and the ocean thrive.

To achieve this, “meaningful engagement” must include:

- Clear mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples to contribute to OSPAR's work and decision-making.
- Early and equitable involvement in shaping marine policies that affect our waters, livelihoods, and cultures.
- The full and equal integration of Indigenous Knowledge alongside science—through genuine co-production in research, monitoring, policy, and governance.

Recognition without structure risks becoming rhetoric. We stand ready to co-create that structure and move forward—together.

Let this declaration be a beginning—where Arctic Indigenous Peoples voices help lead the way in protecting the ocean we all depend on.

**Giitu. Thank you.**





**Our vision is of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse  
North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is productive, used sustainably  
and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.**

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