



Alliance Agreement between Tuna Cities for Sustainable Human Development

SUSTAINABLE TUNA CITIES

*A global alliance between tuna cities committed to
sustainable human development*



1. Introduction

This agreement establishes a framework for cooperation between cities where tuna fishing represents a substantial part of their economy, their society, their environment, their history, their culture and their future, with the aim of setting up an ***Alliance of Tuna Cities for Sustainable Human Development***.

Towns and cities that see their territory on both land and sea as a single reality, integrated, inter-related and inseparable, and are committed to contributing to sustainable development of this territory, of tuna, with tools to avoid, prevent, mitigate and repair the environmental and social impact of this economic activity within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the UN's 2030 Agenda.

2. Context and justification

The Alliance of Tuna Cities for Sustainable Human Development was born out of Bermeo Tuna World Capital, BTWC, a public-private partnership that seeks to involve all key players in the tuna value chain to promote, at local level, sustainable management of tuna as a natural resource, based on scientific knowledge, science, innovation and leadership in social and environmental good practices according to the strictest internationally-recognised standards. Its objectives include fostering the relationship between science and fishing, fostering training and awareness; recuperating, managing and publicising historic heritage; fostering the pooling of experience between cultures and driving the economic, social and environmental development of the territory of Bermeo, and working to connect and cooperate with other cities, regions and agents internationally to promote the sustainability of tuna.

All its activities form an excellent basis to take on the Sustainable Development Goals in Agenda 2030 in each of the signatory cities through a systemic, dynamic, multi-agent and collaborative approach, taking into account the environmental and social impacts of the economic activity of tuna fishing throughout the supply chain, and promoting awareness, political action and multi-level, multi-actor consensus based on the empowerment of local agents, key figures in the local governance of sustainable development.

It also represents an opportunity for the territories to connect and work together to drive sustainable development of the world's most important fishery resource and implement new tools for diplomacy to call for and defend the specific scenarios of the cities to roll out Agenda 2030: local strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, monitoring and assessment indicators, new governance models and educational programmes to raise knowledge and awareness in society.

World tuna output stands at 5.3 million tonnes, placing us at 86% of Maximum Sustainable Yield, i.e. in the future we do not have a margin to increase tuna fishing if we also want to assure the exploitation of fish populations on sustainable economic, environmental and social terms. It is therefore necessary - in fact essential - to make sustainability a part of business models in the tuna



fishing industry, and at the same time to encourage companies to join in working towards the sustainable development of the territories on land and sea where they operate, to protect and assure the sustainability of tuna resources and their ecosystems, as well as of the communities, people and regions that depend to a great extent on this species.

To this end, the Bermeo Tuna World Capital (BTWC) invites all leading cities in global tuna fishing that share these features and these local and global commitments to join this International Alliance of Tuna Cities for Sustainable Human Development.

3. Objective

The objective of this agreement is to promote the **creation of the Alliance of Tuna Cities for Sustainable Human Development**, and to advance the SDGs in the 2030 Agenda through multi-actor alliances at local level, with the aim of pooling experience and innovative solutions between them, and projecting these advances at international and global level.

Implementing SDG 17 by mobilising multi-actor public-private alliances for sustainable development is seen as a systematic, collective, long-term process which involves public and private actors and the general public aligning their visions and strategies, sharing knowledge, technology and data to provide solutions to the economic, social, environmental and human challenges to sustainable development of their territory, in connection with the sustainability of the tuna industry.

The collective process of change is based on stimulating a **Multi-Actor Alliance to advance the 2030 Agenda** - ALMA 2030 - in tuna fishing regions, based on the 4+1 fundamental pillars:

- (1) Fostering an aware, active public that plays a part in the sustainability of tuna and in advancing the 2030 Agenda;
- (2) Generating innovation and capacities between the different local actors: institutions, businesses and cooperatives, civil society and academia.
- (3) Designing and managing long-term road maps for guidance on achieving the SDGs
- (4) Attracting medium and long-term public and private investment in plans and projects for sustainable development in the region;
- (4+1) Constructing the narrative of progress in transforming the city in line with the SDGs, inter-connecting and exchanging solutions with other regions and international and global projection in spheres including the United Nations and others linked to the 2030 Agenda.

For the above reasons, BTWC is to devise and agree upon a medium to **long-term strategic plan in order to drive:**

- incorporating sustainability into business models and throughout the tuna industry value chain, and



- advancing the SDGs in and from the territory of the signatory cities on the basis of this framework of multi-actor alliances to advance the 2030 Agenda on the basis of the 4+1 pillars of change.

This strategic plan includes the following actions:

1. Generating multi-actor alliances to implement the actions to take to advance in the 2030 Agenda.
2. Encouraging inter-connections between the cities in the alliance to pool their advances, experience, solutions, technologies and so on.
3. Reporting their progress through voluntary reports.
4. Connecting the cities in the alliance and their progress in the 2030 Agenda in and from their tuna fishing grounds with the United Nations system and in particular the Secretariat of the United Nations 2030 Local Coalition to localise the SDGs at global level, based in Bilbao, with a view to in the future setting up a hub for tuna cities for the SDGs.
5. Contributing to international debate linked to the Blue Economy and to SDG 14 on Sustainable Oceans and other related to it.

The signatory cities undertake to do the following:

- Work actively to achieve the involvement of public institutions and private agents at local level, to foster the sustainability of tuna, in line with the 4+1 methodological framework.
- Support the *International Declaration on Tuna Sustainability* in the process of submission, approval and development towards a Universal Declaration by the competent international bodies.
- Promote the dissemination and adherence of the industry, governments at all levels, civil society, academia and the general public to this International Declaration, acquiring shared commitments to integrate sustainable human development in business models and throughout the tuna industry's value chain.
- Work with BWTC to connect and share with the other cities its advances in incorporating sustainability in the tuna industry and progress on each of the 4+1 pillars to localise the SDGs in their regions, identifying the sustainability of tuna and the marine-terrestrial relationship as the backbone of their economic, social, environmental and social development.

This agreement enters force on the date on which the parties sign it. Furthermore, it will remain in force indefinitely from this date onwards, and may be terminated by mutual written agreement by any of the signatories, after sending prior notification.

And for the record, this agreement is signed in Bermeo on 3 May 2023.



Aritz Abaroa
Mayor of Bermeo

Agustín Intriago
Mayor of Manta

Lydia Charlie
Acting Mayor of Port
Victoria

Ladie N.Jack
Mayor of Majuro

Dominador S. Lagare
Representative of the Mayor's
Office of General Santos

Marc Bigot
Mayor of Concarneau

Archie Soliai
Representative of the
Governor of Pago Pago



Tuna cities

The promoters and founding cities in this alliance are Manta (Ecuador), Port Victoria (Seychelles), General Santos (Philippines), Bermeo (Basque Country), Pago Pago (American Samoa), Majuro (Marshall Islands) and Concarneau (France).

These cities call on tuna cities all over the world to join this alliance.

Bermeo is responsible for 10% of the total world tuna catch. 60% of the boats fishing for tuna in Europe are built in the Basque Country and 95% of the design, engineering and building of Basque tuna boats is also "Made in the Basque Country", keeping home-grown yards specialising in this business going. Bermeo is a land of sea, tradition and innovation.

Manta, known as one of the world capitals of tuna, has the second largest tuna fleet in the world, after Thailand. It benefits over 1,600 Ecuadoran families. On arriving in the harbour, one is welcomed by a sculpture of a tuna fish, in a scene that recreates the marine environment and symbolising the enormous importance of tuna to Manta's economy and social development.

Port Victoria is the top port for the transfer of tuna in the Indian Ocean. The Seychelles lie right in the middle of the tuna migration route in the western Indian Ocean. The country consists of 100 islands that make up a single economic area covering 1.37 million square kilometres (529,000 square miles). This is a stretch of ocean over three times the size of California, which yields the biggest tuna catch in the Indian Ocean.

Majuro, capital of the Marshall Islands. The Western and Central Pacific ocean has become the only area where tuna is caught sustainably. A history of cooperation and dedication that shows a wide range of knowledge, a combination of talent and vast and varied skills. The region has the biggest, most comprehensive programme of on-board observers and one of the most comprehensive boat monitoring systems in the world, strictly supervising fishing activities according to sustainable procedures.

General Santos is a city wholly devoted to tuna fisheries. "Welcome to GenSan, the tuna capital of the Philippines," says a sign at the airport. Statues of the fish and posters highlighting its culinary and nutritional qualities are to be found everywhere in the city's streets. Tuna is always present in the life of the city; people talk about it and often write about its importance.

The inhabitants of **Concarneau** were, along with the Basques, pioneers in the expansion of longfin tuna fishing, and it is Europe's top tuna fishing port. It became one of the most important ports in France with canneries specialising in sardine and tuna, and today it remains a major fishing port, the most important in France for tuna and sixth for deep-sea fishing, with an important shipbuilding industry and a fleet of more than 200 fishing vessels.

Pago Pago is one of the most sheltered and deepest natural harbour in the South Pacific, giving American Samoa a natural advantage because it makes it easier to unload tuna for processing. The economy of Pago Pago is almost entirely dependent on the tuna industry. Approximately two-



thirds of the private sector workforce is either directly or indirectly related to the tuna industry, and it accounts for more than 90% of exports. The culture, traditions and way of life of the indigenous people are directly tied to the ocean.