But ocean health is threatened by anthropogenic environmental contaminants. Accumulation of excessive nutrients, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and marine debris including macro-, micro- and nano-plastics is causing serious problems. World leaders must adopt evidence-based policies to address this issue.

Ocean warming causes sea level rise, loss of dissolved oxygen, redistribution and alteration of marine life, and intensification of heatwaves and tropical cyclones. Excessive carbon dioxide emissions also cause ocean acidification, which is further worsened by unregulated and excessive human activities such as over-exploitation of world fisheries.

The ocean has absorbed 30% of total anthropogenic CO2 emissions since the 1980s, with enormous global impacts. Over-exploitation of world fisheries is causing a rapid decline of fisheries resources.

Most fisheries stocks are fully exploited: more than 90% of marine stocks are either overfished (34.2%) or fished at maximum sustainable levels (59.6%).

The ocean covers more than 70% of planet Earth and supports humankind. The ocean is essential for life on Earth, providing us with oxygen to breathe, fish and seafood to eat, seaways for transportation, leisure and healing places to visit, and habitats for biodiversity.

Unregulated and excessive human activities and climate change are reducing biodiversity and threatening ecosystem services. Most fisheries stocks are fully exploited: more than 90% of marine stocks are either overfished (34.2%) or fished at maximum sustainable levels (59.6%).

The ocean has absorbed 30% of total anthropogenic CO2 emissions. World academies urge world leaders to improve ocean health by stopping habitat destruction and the spread of environmental contaminants, fighting climate change and overexploitation, and adopting science-based policies.