

## EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY, 19 AUGUST 2019

(ENGLISH)

**Javier Bardem: our oceans need us**

*Full text of Javier Bardem's address to United Nations delegates for Global Ocean Treaty*

I feel incredibly lucky to have visited our planet's frozen frontiers.

Last year I joined a Greenpeace expedition to the Antarctic, to research the state of our oceans and bring the incredible diversity of life I saw there closer to people who may never get a chance to see it. I saw penguins plunging into the water, I saw the ice shining in countless tones of white and blue, a world of wonders and majestic whales. With scientists, I squeezed into a tiny submarine to go down to the depths of the oceans, where few humans had been before. I felt embraced by nature.

That's why I was so frustrated to see that Member States of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (what you call CCAMLR)", threw away a huge opportunity to safeguard the Antarctic Ocean, by failing to create a vast protected area. Despite scientific evidence, a few countries can block protection to safeguard their short-term economic interests. This is a microcosm of the broken system we currently live in. I urge you not to make this mistake again.

We are all surrounded by the ocean on this blue planet of ours, even if – like in this room right now – we sometimes feel far away from it. Maybe that's why the many threats facing our oceans feel so distant from our hearts: plastic pollution, overfishing, mining, drilling, ocean acidification and of course climate breakdown.

Our oceans are under more pressure now than in any other time in history. But we are at a crossroads. All of you in this room are standing at a crossroads. And you bear a huge responsibility, individually and collectively, to take us down the right path.

I can't help but feel that we, as living creatures on this precious planet, are taking a very dangerous track. You don't need to be an expert to understand what's going on. All you have to do is listen to the science and to the many signs nature is sending us.

Our oceans are on the verge of collapse and we have all played a huge role in this. Now we must all play our part to stop it: especially you in this room.

Without oceans the Earth would simply not function. And it is YOU, the delegates HERE and NOW, who are charged with this sacred responsibility. You are at a crossroads. You have a historic opportunity to turn the tide, not just for the high seas and marine life, but for the planet as a whole, for the millions of people who depend on healthy oceans to survive, and for our children and future generations who we pass this planet on to.

I am one of many that want this to happen. There is a growing global movement of millions outside of this room demanding the protection of our oceans, and the whales, turtles, penguins and other incredible life to which they are home. The world is watching as you negotiate this treaty and this time we just can't afford to get it wrong. I came here to do my part and I'm asking you to do yours, by committing to a strong treaty we can be proud of: one that can actually create safe havens for marine life to recover.

The oceans belongs to us all, but their fate is now in your hands. The instinct to protect is one of humanity's noblest traits. Please embody this principle. Please protect our oceans.