

# Environment track

## CHAIR SUMMARY

### Ministerial Breakfast on Southern Ocean Marine Protected Areas



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2026



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### Ministerial Breakfast on Southern Ocean Marine Protected Areas

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, in the context of the Environment ministerial meeting of the G7 French Presidency, ministers and representatives of the G7 members, joined by Brazilian and South Korean ones, met for a breakfast session to discuss, in an informal setting, the opportunities linked to the creation of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Ocean by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). This exchange was held in the presence of civil society, represented by the Antarctica2030 coalition.

Through the round table discussion, the ministers and the heads of delegation reaffirmed CCAMLR's full competence to adopt MPAs in the Convention area, and emphasized the importance of establishing a representative system of MPAs in the region, with the aim of conserving Antarctic marine biodiversity on the basis of the best available scientific evidence.

The delegations shared their support to achieving the consensus for the adoption of new MPAs in the area of the Convention based on the best available scientific evidence, in addition to the two existing ones, and expressed a strong consensus for translating this political ambition into action. They affirmed their collective willingness to work toward resolving the current challenges hindering progress on this matter, as these projects are to provide critical environmental and economic benefits for the Antarctic region.

To move forward on these shared objectives, three main lines of action have emerged during the discussions:

- Strengthening scientific cooperation to support the design of new MPAs, building notably on exploration programs such as the Neptune mission;
- Increasing political and diplomatic mobilization on this matter, especially during upcoming major Ocean and Biodiversity international summits and conferences;
- Promoting the conservation objective of CCAMLR, which includes rational use, as a vector for collectively protecting the environment in the region.

They stressed the importance of the 2026 CCAMLR annual meeting to work collectively towards overcoming deadlocks for the adoption of new MPAs, in close coordination with the other members of the Commission.

The discussion reflected a shared commitment to advance a pragmatic, forward-looking approach, commensurate with the scale and urgency of the challenges.