Sonae

# Pres Release

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# Sonae defends ocean sustainability and subscribes the UN Ocean Principles

- **UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Principles promote the fight against climate change, overfishing, pollution, and unsustainable development**
- **Sonae has a sustainable fishing policy implemented since 2010**

Sonae is committed to the protection and sustainability of the ocean, having signed onto the UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Principles, which was announced today during the Sustainable Blue Economy Investment Forum, at the UN Ocean Conference, in Lisbon.

João Günther Amaral, member of the Sonae Executive Committee, says, "Oceans and life in this ecosystem are at danger and, if nothing is done, we can lose one of the greatest natural and economical assets of the planet. That is why Sonae, which had already subscribed the UN Global Compact, is now signing onto these principles to protect the ocean and promote a sustainable blue economy. The joint commitment of countries, private companies and non-governmental organisations make it possible to create today a better future for all, preserving a unique and irreplaceable heritage."

Sonae's concern for the ocean has already been in full force for over a decade. In 2010, Sonae became the first Portuguese retail group to adopt a sustainable fishing policy (available here). Among the adopted practices were the non-commercialisation of endangered species and the monitoring of suppliers and fishing boats, in order to guarantee that most of the fish sold by Continente is obtained so as to preserve the environment and ocean sustainability. Already in 2020, Continente became the first retailer in Portugal to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) for trading sustainably sourced fish.

The UN Sustainable Ocean Principles have been subscribed by around 150 companies across 30 industries from 35 countries, with a combined market capitalisation of more than 1 trillion euros. These companies are committing to assess their impact on the ocean and integrate ocean sustainability into their overall strategy.

"Today's commitment by 150 blue economy companies showcases the private sector's willingness to support SDG 14. Healthy and productive oceans rely on all actors to do their part. I am encouraged by these companies and their commitment to integrate ocean health into their corporate strategies", said Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General and CEO of the United Nations Global Compact.

Sonae exists to create a lasting positive impact on businesses, people, communities and on the planet. Managing a diverse portfolio of businesses in retail, financial services, technology, investments, shopping centers and telecommunications, we make the most of our expertise and push ourselves to create the future we all want and need. Creating today a better tomorrow, for all.
Find out more at www.sonae.pt

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In addition to the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, the Sustainable Ocean Principles provide a framework for responsible business practices across ocean sectors and geographies. The world depends on a healthy, productive and resilient ocean for food security, climate mitigation and economic livelihoods. Climate change, overfishing, pollution, and unsustainable and inequitable development are damaging the health of our ocean and seas.

Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life below water) still has the lowest level of financial investment of any of the 17 SDGs. There is a need for increased public, private, and blended financing to foster a sustainable blue economy.

The UN Global Compact announced it will join a coalition of global stakeholders to develop a universal guidance for Blue Bonds — a commitment to provide the global market consistency and transparency in financing the sustainable blue economy. The Global Guidance for Bonds Financing the Blue Economy aims to provide market participants with clear criteria, practices and examples for blue bond lending and issuances.