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## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

### ***Speaker Farrugia participates in the ‘One Ocean Summit Forum – The Parliaments of the Sea’***

Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr Anġlu Farrugia has actively participated in the ‘One Ocean Summit Forum – The Parliaments of the Sea’, which the French National Assembly has organised in Brest, France.

The forum tackled four themes, namely;

1. Protecting maritime resources and biodiversity
2. Combating pollution, especially from plastic
3. An ocean of solutions to tackle climate change
4. Advancing ocean governance

Speaker Farrugia, in his address under theme 4, recalled that this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which convention emanated from the landmark speech by Malta’s Permanent Representative Arvid Pardo in 1967, when he described the ocean as ‘the common heritage of mankind’. He referred to the International Ocean Governance initiative launched by former EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs Karmenu Vella, which led to Malta hosting the second international marine conference ‘Our Ocean’ in 2017, which made a substantial contribution towards strengthening ocean governance.

Speaker Farrugia mentioned Malta’s legislation aimed at mitigating the generation of Single Use Plastic (SUP) through the implementation of measures listed within the SUP Strategy in January 2021, when the importation and production of such material was prohibited, while the sale and distribution of this material has been prohibited.

Speaker Farrugia proposed that the UN Secretary General would consider the establishment of an appropriate mechanism or panel, which could co-ordinate the work on ocean governance being undertaken by organs both within and outside the United Nations. The new mechanism would make recommendations to the General Assembly on the formulation of a global strategy to ensure a holistic approach towards ocean space in the spirit of the 1982 UNCLOS.

A joint declaration – ‘One Ocean Summit’ – was approved by the parliamentarians gathered in Brest, France, for said summit.