



LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND SDG 14 IMPLEMENTATION: MOBILIZING ACTION TOWARDS THE 2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE

Virtual Briefing

17 FEBRUARY 2022

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM (EST, NEW YORK)

Concept Note and Agenda

BACKGROUND

Convened by the United Nations General Assembly and co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, the [“United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”](#) will be held from 27 June to 1 July in Lisbon, Portugal, under the overarching theme: *“Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”*.

The 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference comes at a critical time as the world is seeking to address many of the deep-rooted problems of our societies laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic and which will require major structural transformations and common shared solutions that are anchored in the SDGs. To mobilize action, the Conference will seek to propel much needed science-based innovative solutions aimed at starting a new chapter of global ocean action.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND SDG 14

Cities and regions have a great responsibility for ocean and coastal sustainability. It is estimated that almost 80 per cent of the pollution load in the ocean comes from land-based activities, both in coastal areas and further inland. Municipal, industrial and agricultural wastes and run-off, as well as atmospheric deposition, affect the most productive areas of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters. One of the most damaging ways in which cities pollute coastal areas is the discharge of wastewater and sewage. Many coastal cities discharge sewage, industrial effluent and other wastewater directly into their surrounding seas. Physical alterations to the coastal zone can also threaten the marine environment. Inappropriate construction, under-regulated harbor and ports activities, overextraction of natural materials and

unsustainable agricultural practices can damage coastlines, leading to erosion, the destruction of natural habitats and an increase in siltation

Furthermore, many coastal cities around the world are directly threatened by climate change and related risks, including sea-level rise, as well as the increase in extreme weather events that affect people's lives, ecosystems and economies. While several coastal cities and regions are developing plans on how to adapt to climate change, not all are prepared well enough.

Many citizens of coastal cities and regions also depend directly on the ocean for their livelihoods, making it important to promote peer learning and sharing of good practices amongst cities and regions on how to promote a Blue Economy, encourage the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improve livelihoods and jobs, while protecting the ocean ecosystem health.

The 2022 UN Ocean Conference offers a unique opportunity for coastal cities and regions to mobilize and demonstrate leadership in taking action to protect our ocean and ensure that the ocean and its accompanying coast are sustainably managed.

OBJECTIVES

- To build awareness amongst cities and regions and their networks about the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, including its preparatory process, and opportunities of engagement.
- To initiate a discussion on how to mobilize new Ocean Action commitments and initiatives by cities and regions that could become part of the outcome of the Conference.

FORMAT

The event will be fully virtual on Zoom. It will feature opening remarks from senior representatives of the Conference's co-hosts, Portugal and Kenya, and remarks by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson.

The second half of the event will feature a round table with interventions from representatives of key city networks, as well as representatives of local and regional governments from coastal areas across the globe, with due consideration of gender and geographical balance.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Representatives of local and regional governments and their networks. Interested participants can register here: bit.ly/CitiesSDG14Register

More information about the event is available [here](#)

ORGANIZERS

The briefing will be organized by UN DESA in its capacity as the Secretariat of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, UN Global Compact and the Climate Champions Team.

AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 – 9:10 AM	Welcome Remarks (5 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations • Ambassador Njambi Kinyungu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations
9:10 - 9:20 AM	The 2022 UN Ocean Conference and important of city action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Peter Thomson, UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean
9:20 – 9:30 AM	The 2022 UN Ocean Conference – logistical preparations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG/UN DESA
9:30 – 10:10 AM	Round table: Challenges and Opportunities for Coastal Cities and regions in the lead-up to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference and the implementation of SDG14 Moderator: Mr. Ignace Beguin/Ocean Lead, Climate Champions Team Key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the biggest challenges coastal cities and regions have in implementing SDG 14?</i> • <i>How can we mobilize coastal cities and regions to support SDG 14 implementation and to scale up ocean actions, especially considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?</i> • <i>What are the expectations and ambitions from coastal cities for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference?</i> Panelists (4 minutes each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Joana Balsemão, Councilwoman, Cascais Municipality, Portugal • Ms. Dolapo Fasawe, General Manager Lagos State, Environmental Protection Agency, Lagos, Nigeria • Mr. Sergi Tudela, Director-General for Maritime Policy and Sustainable Fisheries, Government of Catalonia, Spain • Ms. Marta Pontes, Councilwoman, Matosinhos Municipality, Portugal • Mr. Florian Lux, Project Manager of the Go Blue Project, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa • Ms. Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive Officer, Urbanice Malaysia
10:10 – 10:25	Interactive dialogue Moderator: Ms. Naiara Costa , Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG/UN DESA
10:25 – 10:30	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)