

LOCALIZING ACTION FOR THE OCEAN: LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS SPECIAL EVENT

25 JUNE 2022

10:00 – 17:30 (WEST)

Local Ocean Action Session 3: Strengthening Cooperation, Building Innovative Governance Approaches to protect the ocean

Co-leads: Regions4 Sustainable Development, the government of Catalonia (Spain), UCLG, ICLEI, and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.

Forwards

Finding solutions to the complex and multi-dimensional sustainability challenges faced by coastal areas, which are aggravated by climate change, requires an inclusive and innovative governance approach. Building on the previous sessions that focus on impacts and finance, this session will focus on governance as a core condition for the implementation of SDG14. This session will showcase how innovative governance models will be key to achieving the sustainable management of the ocean. It is further crucial to ensure the participation of all cities and territories beyond those located in coastal areas to ensure the sustainable management of the ocean.

The participation of all involved stakeholders: resource users, scientists, civil society and governments from different levels is crucial for achieving a sustainable use and management of the Ocean. Innovative multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance harnesses the cross-scale and cross-discipline relationships necessary for inclusive governance and decision-making that builds resilience and whereby all involved stakeholders align their efforts to achieve maximum effectiveness. Inclusive governance schemes facilitate co-designing and co-implementing an integrated maritime policy based on sound science.

This session will discuss scalable innovative multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance models and resources developed at national, regional and local levels to deliver on SDG 14. It will bring to the fore experiences of decision-making instruments and best practices applied to natural resources and biodiversity, coastal and maritime uses and communities that support SDG 14 implementation.

Only an integrated perspective of Ocean related activities and their impacts on the ecosystems, as well as of the impacts of land-based activities on the Ocean would provide a proper understanding of the threats and needs for a sustainable and resilient management of the ocean.

Objectives

- This session will showcase the work and leadership of local and regional governments in developing innovative governance approaches for resilience and Ocean protection.

- This session will promote inclusive innovative resources and solutions on multi-level governance and co-management by demonstrating their effectiveness in achieving a sustainable use of the ocean.
- This session will highlight the importance of whole-of-government approaches to ocean management and the key role that all cities – not only coastal cities - and territories play.
- The session will identify barriers and lessons learnt to implement resilient governance and effective innovative governance schemes.

Guiding questions

- What kind of innovative governance experience have you put forward towards sustainable use of the ocean?
- What barriers have to be overcome to put in place these innovative government approaches?
- What results have you achieved and which were the lessons learned in this process?

Expected outcomes

- This session aims to unpack key tools, resources and innovative governance models that can help national, subnational, and local governments work collaboratively on climate resilient development policies and ocean management, plans and strategies.
- This will inspire decision makers and practitioners to develop innovative governance models. Multi-level governance and co-management approaches which can further enhance governments championing a whole-of-society approach whereby meaningful participation of different stakeholders (public and private) in collective forums can engage.