

LOCALIZING ACTION FOR THE OCEAN:

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS SPECIAL EVENT

25 JUNE 2022

10:00 – 17:30 (WEST)

Local Ocean Action Session 4: Ocean Action Session 4: Sustainable Transitions – Blue Economy, Energy transition and local and regional development

Co-leads: AIVP

Forwards

This session will discuss energy transition of ports, aiming at reducing polluting emissions, as well as how to explore the opportunities brought by the Sustainable Blue Economy, without over-exploiting the ocean and putting coastal cities in danger. New concepts have recently emerged such as “green corridors” focusing on reducing the environmental externalities of the maritime sector. These concepts require further discussion regarding their scope, also including port city resiliency goals, and their global application. The session will discuss the specific challenges for ports, including negative externalities of navigation (mega-ships, ballast waters, wave effects); concertation on the land management in the coastal areas owned by port companies; coordination between the port and the urban actors and others.

Objectives

- Discuss current global agreements to reduce the environmental impact of the port and maritime sector and assess their actual applicability from a port city perspective.
- Identify existing and under development good practices that can contribute to a greener and environmentally responsible port and maritime sector.
- Explore bottom-up initiatives that foster international cooperation (from the city to the country/global region)
- Detect bottlenecks in the implementation of more ambitious programs or actions that can improve the protection of the oceans and coastal regions.
- Discuss the role of local governments in the global dialogue for sustainable shipping.
- Continue the global discussion started this year in the One Ocean Summit, followed in the 17th World Conference Cities and Port, with the goal of arriving to the COP27 with more concrete proposals or reinforcing the existing initiatives to maximize impact.

Guiding questions

- What is the role of the actors forming the port city ecosystem in global initiatives aiming at cleaner and greener maritime logistics?
- What are the connections between coastal resiliency plans and the existing global initiatives for a greener maritime sector?
- What impact are these global actions achieving? Are they enough?

- How can we local governments empower stronger action for sustainable port activities? What governance structures can facilitate this engagement?
- What are the Principles, Challenges and Levers for a sustainable Blue Economy in port cities?
- What are the successful initiatives, or how do they plan to do differently?
- Having COP27 in mind, which partners are missing from the conversation?

Expected outcomes

- Recognition in the final Lisbon Political Declaration on the role of port cities for ocean health and sustainability; including the important role of port and maritime actors and the need to accelerate actions beyond the current commitments
- Empowering the One Ocean Summit declaration, guaranteeing the engagement and support from more ports worldwide
- Launching new dialogues and cooperation between international organizations and their members active in this session, connecting coastal resilience to ocean protection and sustainable port city development.
- Gathering new impulse for the work on port cities towards the COP27 with new inputs and action plans.