***EGM SDG 14 summary:***

The virtual Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on SDG 14 was held on Tuesday May 10 and Wednesday May 11, 2022. During the opening session, participants heard video messages from Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs and Conference Secretary General for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference and from Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, United Nations Legal Counsel.  Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, Director, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, provided remarks to set the stage for the EGM, underscoring the theme of the HLPF: “**Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**” and outlining the impact of COVID 19 on the implementation of SDG 14.  The meeting was attended by a wide array of experts from across regions and institutions including UN entities [UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO IOC, FAO, IMO, WMO, ISA, World Bank], and partner institutions such as the OECD, regional organizations such as the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, country representatives [particularly SIDS of the Eastern Caribbean], academia, and civil society. In total 68 expert participants were in attendance. The two-day program focused on taking stock of the status of SDG 14 Targets and the means of their implementation, including reenergizing the momentum at the Ocean Conference and beyond. The meeting also placed emphasis on discussing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the progress made towards achieving SDG 14 as well as on envisioning the next steps in support of ‘blue recovery’. Closing remarks were made by representatives from Portugal and Kenya [co-hosts of the Ocean Conference] and Ambassador Peter Thomson – UN Special Envoy for the Ocean sent a pre-recorded video message. A summary report of the EGM will be prepared for further dissemination with member states and in preparation for the HLPF [SDG 14 discussion scheduled for July 7, 2022 3 – 6 PM EST].