

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

25 JUNE 2022

10:00 – 17:30 (WEST)

Matosinhos, Portugal

Concept Note and Agenda

DRAFT

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 Conference will bring together Governments, the UN System entities and multiple stakeholders across different sectors to forge new solutions 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.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND SDG 14

By 2025, nearly 6 billion people will live within 200km of a coastline. Therefore, cities and regions have a great responsibility for ocean and coastal sustainability, and in building resilience to growing shocks and stresses. 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.

Many coastal cities discharge sewage, industrial effluent and other wastewater directly into their surrounding seas. Inappropriate construction, under-regulated harbor and port activities, over extraction of natural resources and unsustainable agricultural practices can damage coastlines, leading to erosion, and the destruction of natural habitats. Additionally, stemming the tide of the plastics and microplastics leakage from cities (including non-coastal) is a key action that can bring ocean and urban/community actors together.

According to [the IPCC Report \(2022\)](#), climate change risks to cities, settlements and key infrastructure will rise rapidly in the mid- and long-term with further global warming, especially in places already exposed to high temperatures, along coastlines, or with high vulnerabilities. Ocean warming and ocean acidification have adversely affected food production from shellfish aquaculture and fisheries in some oceanic regions. Globally, population change in low-lying cities and settlements, including in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), will lead to approximately a billion people projected to be at risk from coastal-specific climate hazards in the mid-term. Unavoidable sea level rise and storm surges will bring cascading and compounding shocks and stresses resulting in losses of coastal habitats and ecosystem services,

groundwater salinization, flooding and damages to coastal infrastructure resulting into risks to livelihoods, settlements, health, well-being, food and water security, and cultural values in the near to long term.

Coastal cities and settlements also play an especially important role in advancing climate resilient development. In fact, also according to [the IPCC \(2022\)](#), growing public and political awareness of climate impacts and risks has resulted in many cities including adaptation in their climate policies and planning processes. Decision support tools and climate services are increasingly being used and pilot projects and local experiments are being implemented in different sectors.

Many citizens of coastal cities and regions 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. Restoring these vulnerable ecosystems will also help in building back better from COVID-19, strengthening climate resilience and creating millions of jobs. For example, in coastal and island communities, where coral, seaweed, oysters, and others are being (re)established, the cascading benefits to cultural, social, and economic resilience are meshed with the “precovery mindset” and resilience building that can strengthen the entire community against storms, sea level rise and other impacts. Fisheries and tourism, biodiversity and water cleanliness, can be promoted at the same time that nature is used to protect the most vulnerable communities.

Innovative governance mechanisms will be key to achieving the sustainable use of the ocean in the context of SDG14. Only an integrated vision of the activities taking place at the ocean and their impacts on ecosystem services as well as of the impacts of land-based activities on the ocean would provide a better understanding of the threats and needs for sustainable management of the ocean.

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

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

The Special Event on Localizing Ocean Action will be an opportunity to stress the presence of ‘urban-ocean linkages’, and how local and regional governments should be engaged in global efforts and decisions to protect the ocean and maritime resources, including food. The Special Event will also highlight the crucial role of multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder collaboration to strengthen the science-policy interface, as well as to improve data systems and seek innovative solutions at all levels.

The Localizing Ocean Action Special Event will create an opportunity for local and regional governments and their networks, national governments, and other stakeholders to exchange experiences and good practices of SDG 14 implementation at the local level. It will be a space for local and regional governments and other stakeholders to announce voluntary [Ocean Action Commitments](#). Additionally, it will act as a space to facilitate a discussion on opportunities and initiatives that can support sustainable adaptation for coastal cities and regions, including financing innovation and scaling up Ocean protection.

OBJECTIVES

- To showcase successful experiences from local and regional governments and other stakeholders on the implementation and follow up of SDG 14.

- To establish synergies and act as a platform for announcements of new Voluntary Ocean Commitments by local and regional governments and other stakeholders in support of SDG 14 implementation.
- To facilitate networking and peer exchange between local and regional governments, their networks and partners on tools, mechanisms and solutions to support and finance SDG 14 implementation.
- To consolidate inputs from local and regional governments and partners to be shared during the 2022 UN Ocean Conference.

FORMAT

The event will be a one-day event held fully in-person. The meeting will be open to local and regional governments representatives as well as representatives from UN Member States, UN entities, inter-governmental organizations and other stakeholders interested in supporting local action towards SDG 14 implementation.

The event will feature opening/closing segments and interactive sessions, including speakers from local and regional governments as well as other stakeholders from all regions, with due consideration of gender and geographical balance.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

All interested participants will need to register using a dedicated online form. The meeting will be held in English.

Interested participants will be responsible for all costs associated with their participation at the event.

For details about the event, please, check here: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/LRGspecialevent-2022UNOC>

ORGANIZERS

This Special Event is hosted by the co-hosts of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, the Governments of Portugal and Kenya, together with the City of Matosinhos, and organized in collaboration with UN DESA, UN Global Compact, the Climate Champions Team and networks of local and regional governments gathered in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Regions4, Ocean & Climate Platform, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Resilient Cities Network, the International Association Cities & Ports (AIVP) and OECD.

OUTCOMES

A summary of discussions will be prepared. Key messages from the different sessions will be consolidated and shared by a representative of local and regional governments during a plenary session of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference.

DRAFT AGENDA

25 June 2022

(As of 24 June)

Time	Agenda Item
10:00 – 10:20	<p><u>Opening Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Luísa Salgueiro, Mayor of Matosinhos • Mr. Julius Korir, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Devolution of the Republic of Kenya • H.E. Ms. Ana Abrunhosa, Minister of Territorial Cohesion, Portugal
10:20 - 10:30	<p><u>Keynote Speaker:</u> Ms. Ana Paula Vitorino, President of Mobility and Transport Authority and former Minister of the Sea, Portugal</p>
10:30 – 11:45	<p><u>Local Ocean Action Session 1: The clock is ticking: How can coastal cities build resilience and incorporate nature-based solutions to protect local populations?</u></p> <p><i>This session will focus on the importance of investing in innovative sustainable solutions, including those that are nature-based, to provide long-term defenses against the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, coastal erosion and rising sea-levels. Speakers will be invited to share innovative efforts implemented by cities and regions.</i></p> <p><i>This session is co-organized by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and Ocean & Climate Platform (OCP)</i></p> <p><u>Moderator (5 min):</u> Dr. Kate Stratchan, Climate Change Resilience Manager, ICLEI World Secretariat</p> <p><u>Speakers (5 minutes interventions each)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Ali Hassan Joho, Governor, Mombasa, Kenya 2. Ms. Janelle Kellman, Mayor, Sausalito, United States 3. Ms. Inês de Medeiros, Mayor of Almada, Portugal 4. Mr. Nuno Araújo, President, APDL - Port of Leixões 5. Ms. Marine Lecerf, International Policy Officer, Ocean & Climate Platform (OCP) 6. Ms. Stefania Romano, Global Coordinator, Cities with Nature & Regions with Nature, Advocacy & Recruitment, ICLEI, Africa 7. Mr. Emmanuel Nzai, CEO of Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani, Kenya 8. Mr. Antonio Basanta Fernández, Director General of Fishing, Aquaculture and Technological Innovation, Consellería do Mar, Galicia, Spain <p>Q&A</p>

11:45 - 11:55	COFFEE BREAK
11:55 – 13:00	<p><u>Local Ocean Action Session 2: Unlocking financial flows for adapting coastal cities to climate change and building resilience</u></p> <p><i>This session will present the objectives, main trends, gaps and needs of coastal cities to be supported in the development and implementation of policies for adaptation to climate change and resilience building. Panelists will discuss how to design new funding mechanisms and processes for coastal cities to be able to finance climate resilient adaptation solutions.</i></p> <p><i>This session is co-organized by Resilient Cities Network and Ocean & Climate Platform (OCP)</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Ignace Béguin, Ocean Lead, UN Climate Champions</p> <p><u>Speakers - (5 minutes interventions each)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ricardo Mourinho Félix, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank Mr. Miguel Marques, Founding partner, Skipper & Wool, and Blue Info Global Leader Ms. Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund Professor António Cunha, President of Norte Portugal Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR-N) Ms. Isabelle Thompsen, Portfolio Manager at DNB (TBC) Mr. Vallop Suwandeec, Chairman of Advisers to the Governor of Bangkok, Thailand (TBC) Mr. Theophile Bongarts, Manager, Seat'ies Mr. Stewart Sarkozy-Banoczy, Global Director, Policy and Investments, Resilient Cities Network Mr. David Schurman, CEO, Voice of the Ocean (TBC) <p>Q&A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 - 14:10	<p><u>Keynote Speaker:</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Duarte Cordeiro, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Portugal</p>
14:10 – 15:15	<p><u>Local Ocean Action Session 3 – Strengthening cooperation, building inclusive and governance approaches to protect the ocean</u></p> <p><i>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</i></p>

achieving the sustainable management of the ocean. Discussions will focus on scalable innovative multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance models and resources developed at national, regional and local level to deliver on SDG 14. It will bring to the forefront 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.

This session is co-organized by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Regions4 and the Government of Catalonia, Spain

Moderator: Mr. Jean Baptiste Buffet, Head of Policy and Advocacy - United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and in representation of the Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Governments (GTF)

Speakers (5 minutes interventions each)

1. **Dr. Mohamed Muizzu**, Mayor of Male, Maldives
2. **Mr. José Ribau Esteves**, Mayor of Aveiro and Vice-President, Portuguese Municipalities Association
3. **Mr. Sergi Tudela**, Director-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Government of Catalonia, Spain
4. **Mr. Rodrigo Levkovicz**, Executive Director of the Forest Foundation representing the government of Sao Paulo/SIMA, Brazil
5. **Mr. Carlos Mucapera**, Secretary General of the National Association of Municipalities of Mozambique
6. **Mrs. Nicole Franz**, Fishery Planning Analyst, FAO
7. **Mrs. Rita Sá**, Coordinator of fisheries and oceans, WWF Portugal

Q&A

15:15 - 15:25

Keynote Speaker: Senator Marc. R. Pacheco, Massachusetts, USA

15:25 – 16:35

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

This session will discuss the 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.

This session is co-organized by AIVP and OECD

	<p><u>Moderator: (2 minutes)</u> Mr. Bruno Delsalle, General Manager, AIVP (International Association of Ports Cities)</p> <p><u>Speakers (5 minutes interventions each)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Mario Girard, Vice-President of AIVP, CEO of the Port of Quebec, Canada 2. Hon. Fahim Yasin Twaha, Governor, County Government of Lamu, Kenya 3. Mr. Ashok Adicéam, Counselor to the Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime affairs, One Ocean Summit 4. Mr. Vítor Vasconcelos PhD, University of Porto and Director, CIIMAR 5. Ms. Yolanda Molaes Montero, Senior Consultant, Fisheries Officer, Blue Ports Initiative, Value Chain Development Team (NFIMV), Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Head of Blue Ports Initiative, FAO 6. Ms. Oriana ROMANO, Head of Unit Water Governance and Circular Economy Cities, Urban Policies, and Sustainable Development Division Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD <p>Q&A</p>
16:45 – 17:00	<p><u>Closing Remarks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Lauren Sorkin, CEO/Executive Director, Resilient Cities Network, representing Local and Regional Government Networks ● Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean ● H.E. Mr. José Maria Costa, Secretary of State of the Sea, Portugal