



## 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

### *Fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships and regional cooperation for SDG14*

Wednesday 29 June 2022, 14:30-15:45, side event room 1

Organized by: Government of Slovenija, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning; Government of Italy, Ministry for Ecological Transition; Government of Mauritius; Government of Sweden, Ministry of Environment; Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (IASS, IDDRI, TMG)

#### **Background on the event**

Multi-stakeholder partnerships and regional ocean governance are cornerstones for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean. Considering the intense and growing pressure on ocean ecosystems, accelerated ocean action is needed at all scales, from the global to local level. Regional cooperation is in a unique position to facilitate connection between global policy commitments to national and local implementation.

#### **Key Issues discussed**

- Speakers and panellists emphasised and highlighted successful examples of how multi-stakeholder partnerships and regional cooperation are cornerstones for achieving SDG 14.
- The panellists shared successful experiences of implementation of global targets for marine conservation at the regional level, including ecosystem-based marine spatial planning initiatives in the Eastern Adriatic.
- Twinning MPAs programmes in the Mediterranean were presented, illustrating how different actors and factors impacting marine ecosystems can be integrated. Thanks to the Agreement between the Italian Ministry for Ecological transition and UNEP/MAP, SPAMI Twinning Programmes were developed and implemented for at least 6 SPAMIs, including

management issues diagnosed and addressed, habitats conservation, fishing impacts, joint monitoring programmes implemented, peer-to-peer support and mentoring.

- The added value of multi-stakeholder platforms was highlighted, especially the Marine Regions Forum that fosters regional cooperation for the implementation of SDG14 across sectors and regions.
- As a concrete example of marine conservation, the proposal of Mauritius to create a new MPA around Chagos Archipelago, host of rich biodiversity and wildlife was presented. Cooperation and partnership between Mauritius and stakeholders were highlighted and the role which former inhabitants of the Archipelago would play as custodians of the MPA in an eventual resettlement was stressed along with the need to mitigate the impact of human activities.

### **Key recommendations for action**

- Implementing SDG14 and establishing Agenda 2030 builds up on partnerships.
- Coordinating ocean actions at the level of marine regions offers the opportunity to identify similar vulnerabilities and share financial and capacity resources, while promoting trust between actors and building ownership at multiple levels and across sectors.
- The importance of including a range of diverse stakeholders and working across sectors was highlighted in the field of marine spatial planning.
- Scaling-up good-practice activities needs to be a key focus for further ocean action.
- While decisions might be taken on a global scale, ocean action is needed on the local to regional level. Science-based action and a shared vision were deemed vital for successful regional cooperation and implementation of SDG14. Additionally, the importance of sharing capacities, as well as the need for transparency, were highlighted

### **Voluntary Commitments**

Among the voluntary commitments pledged at the UNOC and in coherence with the main themes of the side event, Italy presented the two bilateral agreements concluded with UNEP/MAP to fulfill the vision of a healthy Mediterranean Sea and Coast that underpin sustainable development in the region through the implementation of the relevant Programmes of Work for a total budget of five million and two hundred thousand euros.