



## **2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event**

### ***Ocean Science and Its Policy Interface: from Knowledge to Sustainable Ocean Solutions***

28 June 2022, 17:30-18:45 WEST, Side Event Room 1, Altice Arena

Organized by: IOC-UNESCO, UN Secretariat Division for Ocean Affairs  
and the Law of the Sea

#### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

This side event will provide a platform for world experts engaged in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and in the UN Regular Process - scientists, NGOs, international organizations, private sector representatives – to showcase ambitious science-based initiatives that are accessible, reliable, scalable and sustainable. It will also provide the opportunity to engage policymakers and understand how the knowledge discovered by the scientific community can support them. These actions share the commonality that they are built on collaboration and co-design amongst various stakeholders in the development and use of science-based solutions to start managing the ocean sustainably.

#### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

Ocean Science:

- Cumulative effects of multiple ocean stressors and in particular ocean acidification
- Fostering source to sea approaches: Brokering innovation to bridge the gaps at the science-policy-management interface
- Scaling up marine biodiversity assessments and conservation through eDNA innovations in World Heritage Sites
- How international partnerships can fill gaps in the ocean observing system

Ocean Policy:

- The current state of the ocean science and policy
- How policies can be developed to encourage innovation to achieve a sustainable and healthy ocean
- Capacity building efforts that can strengthen the interaction between science and policymaking

### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Multiple stressors are altering ocean ecosystems and their capacity to support society, from overfishing to acidification and deoxygenation. Action to adapt to and mitigate the impact of multiple stressors must come not just from national governments, but also (and very importantly) at the level of municipalities and local communities.
- Freshwater, land, coastal and marine systems are intrinsically interlinked. The freshwater scientific community must contribute to a better understanding of these interlinkages in support of policies and action to protect the ocean from land-based activities. More synergies are needed between communities working on SDG 6 and SDG 14.
- Environmental DNA (eDNA) is a cheaper, less invasive and scalable approach to observe life in the sea. We must scale up its use in order to have information systems on marine life that are real-time, globally distributed, and multidisciplinary (capturing info from wind to microbes to whales).
- Countries should take the opportunity and framework offered by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 to further engage with and reinforce (with in-kind and financial resources) through international partnerships the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).
- Development of linkages and networks between the Regular Process and the UN Ocean Decade is critical for ensuring that key science-based information on marine systems (coming from the World Ocean Assessment, and other such reports) can be accessed in useful formats by policy makers for future sustainable use of the marine environment.

### **Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)**

Various voluntary commitments in support of the UN Ocean Decade 2021-2030 were announced during the side event. Please see the full list of voluntary commitments at <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/ocean-commitments>