



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Promoting Blue Partnership for a Shared Sustainable Future

June 29th 2022; 11:30am - 12:45pm; Side Event Room 2, Altice Arena

Organized by: Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China

Organizing partners: World Economic Forum (Friends of Ocean Action), Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology Foundation (SEE Foundation), Eco Foundation Global & Birdlife International (International Coordinators of the World Coastal Forum Establishment Group), and China Oceanic Development Foundation.

Background:

The concept of Building Blue Partnership was put forward by the Chinese Delegation at the last UN Ocean Conference and called for worldwide collaboration to improve sustainable ocean governance. So far, China has improved the Blue Partnership with many countries and witnessed fruitful marine cooperation coming out of the High-level dialogue mechanism on integrated marine management. Blue Partnership will, bilaterally and multilaterally, empower the global ocean community to deliver actions for the ocean we want.

The side event was well attended with hundreds of delegations and audiences attending both at scene and online. And it was an honor to have UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean Ambassador, Peter Thomson and Chinese Government Envoy, Chief Engineer Dr. Zhang Zhanhai deliver the remarks. Eight panelists from Thailand Government, UNEP, FAO, SEE Foundation, BirdLife International, Pacific Islands Development Fourm, IUCN, China Deep Ocean Affairs Administration share their insights on building Blue Partnership to enhance communication and collaboration on conservation and sustainable usage of marine ecosystems, toward a shared sustainable blue future.

Key Issues discussed

- Panel One: Panelists shared their insights on how to promote Blue Partnership through strengthened exchange and cooperation, including collaboration between countries, and among regions, sustainable fishery management, and contribution from civil society organizations.

- Panel Two: Panelists introduced practices and opportunities under Blue Partnership, including coastal wetland conservation, marine spatial planning, nature-based solutions, and deep-sea research.
- The Blue Partnership Principles were released, which consist of 16 articles, focusing on: Conserve the Marine Ecosystems, Tackle Climate Change, Reduce Marine Pollution, Sustainable Use of Marine Resources, Thrive Blue Economy, Strengthen Guidance of Technological Innovation, Implement Integrated Management, Contribute Solutions, Reinforce Capacity Building, Adhere to Openness and Inclusiveness, Welcome Multi-party Participation, Encourage Voluntary Commitments, Take Collective Actions, Promote more just and reasonable ocean governance mechanisms, Share Development Outcomes, and Safeguard Intergenerational Equity.
- Sustainable Blue Partnership Collaboration Network: Sustainable Blue Partnership Collaboration Network launched at the side event is an informal platform to facilitate the multi-stakeholder cooperation under the Blue Partnership jointly initiated by the Friends of Ocean Action of the World Economic Forum and the China Oceanic Development Foundation: <https://www.weforum.org/friends-of-ocean-action/sustainable-blue-partnership-cooperation-network>. We welcome stakeholders to join this network as members.
- Blue Partnership Action Fund (BPAF): The BPAF is the first initiative started by China's civil society organizations jointly to echo the Principles of Blue Partnership. Its goals are to popularize the principle of Building Blue Partnership, achieve the implementation and wide application of nature-based solutions, and advance sustainable use and conservation of marine ecosystems by promoting cooperation among Blue Partners. The initial fund of BPAF is contributed by SEE Foundation and Ant Foundation. (*Learn more: <http://foundation.en.see.org.cn/BPAF/>*)
- World Coastal Forum (WCF): WCF is in establishment process as the only body for facilitating the delivery of international biodiversity commitments to have been called for by resolutions or decisions of global biodiversity conventions and IUCN. WCF aims to be an independent international platform and model, which brings together all stakeholders to facilitate the protection, management, and restoration of coastal ecosystems, which are the most internationally-connected in high threat status as one of the key aspects of ocean health, by reporting the state of the world's coasts, developing science guidance, enhancing communication, education, and public awareness, and supporting the application of NbS and OECMs. The forum is expected to cooperate closely with the Blue Partnership. (<https://www.worldcoastalforum.org>)
- Deep-Ocean Typical Habitats Project: China Deep Ocean Affairs Administration proposed the DEPTH project, focusing on the investigation and discovery of seamounts, mid-ocean ridges, abyssal plains, twilight zones and keynote species habitats. The project is aim to assess deep ocean habitats ecological functions; Study the interaction mechanism between deep ocean and climate change, to provide robust scientific knowledge for ocean governance.

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)

For 2022 UNOC, China made more than 30 voluntary commitments. This Side Event issued the "Blue Partnership Principles", launched the establishment of the Sustainable Blue Partnership Cooperation Network, and supported the implementation project with an initial contribution of 5 million RMB through the Blue Partnership Action Fund.