



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Digital Ocean Systems to support & strengthen implementation of the sustainable development goals

[27 June, 18:45-20:30, Pavilhão de Portugal]

Organized by: Mercator Ocean International, the European Commission, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – UNESCO, and the UN Environment Programme

ID: *OBZB124*

Background on the event (one paragraph)

A standing-room only crowd of more than 80 participants gathered at the Pavilion of Portugal to discuss '[Digital Ocean Systems to Support and Strengthen Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#).' This side-event, co-organized by [Mercator Ocean International](#), the [European Commission](#), the [Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO](#), and the [UN Environment Programme](#), brought together experts in international ocean governance with experts in digital ocean systems to initiate dialogues on how to design new digital ocean tools to meet information needs for a sustainable ocean economy, climate, coastal resilience and disaster risk reduction, and food security and ocean health. The event was opened by the Honorable Jose Maria Costa, Secretary of State for the Sea, Portugal. The co-organizers were represented by Charlina Vitcheva and John Bell (European Commission), Vladimir Ryabinin (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission -UNESCO), Hartwig Kremer (UNEP) and Pierre Bahurel, Karina von Schuckmann, and Enrique Alvarez (Mercator Ocean International). International ocean governance experts included Peter Haugan (The Ocean Panel), Joanna Post (UNFCCC), Elisabeth Holland (Pacific Centre for Environment and Development, Fiji), and Vera Agostini (UN FAO). Digital Ocean experts included Francisco Campuzano (+ATLANTIC CoLAB, Portugal), Johnny Johannessen (Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre, Norway), Nadia Pinaridi (Decade Collaborative Centre for Coastal Resilience, University of Bologna, Italy), and Jörn Schmidt (International Council for Exploration of the Seas). The panel discussion was moderated by Francoise Gaill (The Ocean and Climate Platform).

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Ocean science, data, and services for the UN 2030 sustainable development goals
- The future of ocean prediction to support sustainable development goals
- Ocean prediction needs and digital Ocean solutions to support a sustainable ocean economy, climate, coastal resilience and disaster risk reduction, and food security and ocean health.

- How do we ensure that Ocean science and digital Ocean systems are designed to respond to SDGs and Ocean governance / policy needs?
- How do we deliver Ocean knowledge products that are targeted, findable, and useable for governance and policy?

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Developers of digital ocean systems must engage in dialogues and collaborations directly with stakeholders such as fishers and coastal zone managers to develop targeted digital Ocean applications in SDG areas.
- Recognizing that 'innovation' does not necessarily mean technological advances but rather doing things in a new way, digital ocean system developers should assist nations to access and use existing digital Ocean information tools and services.
- Developers of digital ocean systems must foster dialogues at the science-policy interface to inform decision-makers at global to national levels about digital Ocean information tools and services that exist to support international Ocean governance issues, and to ensure that services developed are fit-for-purpose.

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)

The Decade Collaborative Centre for Ocean Prediction at Mercator Ocean International commits to fostering stakeholder dialogues to ensure that digital Ocean systems are co-designed with users to provide the targeted applications and information required to strengthen and support the sustainable development goals.