2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Driving Ocean Protection & Tourism in the Blue Economy

[28 June, 10:00, EMEL Winter Garden]

Organized by: UN Global Compact Local Networks Portugal & Norway

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The Local Networks of Norway and Portugal co-hosted the **Private Sector Forum** where a multistakeholder panel discussed the role of private sector in creating a sustainable blue economy.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Different impacts of tourism in the ocean (biodiversity, pollution, acidification,...)
- Role of tourism governing bodies in establishing public policies and driving sustainability in tourism operators
- Portuguese challenges and performance, as a country, relating to ocean-based activities
- Examples of conservation activities for the ocean life

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Oceans and ocean conservation should be targeted as a key resource in public policy
- Besides the great economic potential that maritime industries and touristic activities represent, the countries' ecosystems must be protected otherwise communities will lose their livelihoods and companies won't thrive. This means that businesses must adopt more sustainable practices within their operations. Businesses must recognize the impacts that come from their whole supply chain
- Businesses that depend on coastal and maritime ecosystems need to innovate and rethink their current business models and approach
- The energy transition, digital solutions and sustainable design for products and services are the three main solutions to accelerate the path to net-zero
- This business transition needs adequate blue finance solutions, linked to ocean protection, climate adaptation and blue economy development.

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)

There were no voluntary commitments resulting from this side event, other than recognizing that ocean conservancy and ocean protection are central for every business depending on ocean related activities.