



## 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

### *Marine Justice and International Law*

Thursday, June 30th, 5 pm Lisbon, virtual

Organized by:

Observatory for Marine and Coastal Governance (Observatorio para la Gobernanza Marino Costera), Colombia; Agua, Nuestro Derecho (Water, Our Right): Oceana, Philippines; Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense) -AIDA-; Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad (Environment and Society Association), Colombia; Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW), United States; Association Marocaine de Recherche et de Protection Archéologique Sous Marine (Moroccan Association on Research and Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage), Morocco; Healthy Reefs for Healthy People Initiative, Mesoamerican Reef Ecosystem; Centinelas del Agua (Sentinels of the Water), Mexico; Alianza de Derecho Ambiental y Agua (Environmental Law and Water Alliance)-ADA2-, Guatemala; Research Group Marine Justice and International Law (Grupo de Investigación Justicia Marina y Derecho Internacional), Colombia

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

This event addressed the debate about the concept of marine justice and the right to science as a core aspect to achieve sustainable and equitable use of the oceans (SDG 14). The event featured the following speakers: Marcos Orellana, UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights; Ana Lucía Maya-Aguirre, Director of the Observatory for Marine and Coastal Governance (Colombia); Gloria Estenzo Ramos, Oceana Vice President (Philippines); Maria Jose Gonzalez-Bernat, Senior Scientist, Ecosystems Program, Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente –AIDA; Samira Idllalène, legal consultant and board member, Association Marocaine de Recherche et de Protection Archéologique Sous Marine (Moroccan Association on Research and Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage); Alejandro López Tamayo, director, Centinelas

del Agua (Mexico); and Melina Soto, coordinator, Healthy Reefs for Healthy People (Mesoamerican Reef Region). The event was moderated by Lina Malagón, Director of the Research Group Marine Justice and International Law (Colombia).

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

- Right to science in recent reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights.
- Artisanal fishing communities' rights and marine justice within the framework of the SDG 14.
- Ocean literacy as a fundamental factor to achieve the sustainable and equitable use of the oceans.
- Science-based decision to promote transparency and ensure the rights of coastal and insular communities.
- Work experiences of civil society organizations to approach science to social actors and engage citizen participation.

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

- Guaranteeing right to science as a fundamental core to achieve the sustainable and equitable use of the oceans (SDG 14).
- Recognizing and promoting the role of fishermen in the economy, food security and the sustainable use of marine biodiversity.
- Providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine biodiversity and markets must be based on scientific knowledge.
- Approaching science to local communities and building bridges among different kind of knowledges, including the traditional and ancestral ones.
- Mainstreaming transparency and citizen participation, science-based decision, and marine justice in the protection of coastal communities.
- Investing in adequate water treatment systems to guarantee the water quality in coastal zones.

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