

## *Summary of Side Event*

### *Leveraging the power of ocean science, technology and innovation in support of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development*

4 May 2023, 1:15 - 2:45 PM

#### **Background on the event**

The side event, entitled “Leveraging the power of ocean science, technology and innovation to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” addressed topics ranging from the importance of ocean science and technology in achieving the 2030 Agenda (SDG 7), the need for international and regional partnerships in ocean science and technology (SDG 17) and women’s empowerment and leadership in ocean science and technology (SDG 5).

The objectives of the side event were to:

- Discuss the importance of ocean science and technology in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development including in relation to SDG14;
- Demonstrate results of meaningful and concrete partnerships on STI at international and regional levels in ocean science and technology;
- Discuss and explore new areas of cooperation to scale up actions to leverage the power of ocean science, technology and innovation in support of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;
- Promote women’s empowerment and leadership in ocean science and technology.

#### **Key Issues discussed**

- The responsible use of ocean resources is key for global environment sustainability particularly as it has the potential to open new opportunities for economic growth and social inclusion in Least Developing Countries (LDCs), Land Locked Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- LLDCs, such as Nepal, need financial and technical support to strengthen their national capacity for scientific education, research and development in ocean science, technology and innovation (OSTI); to improve accessibility through free transfer of the best available and secure state-of-the-art marine technology, data, research findings, and scientific knowledge and skills; to raise awareness about potential socio-economic benefits arising from the blue economy.
- Increased level of participation in ocean affairs by scientists, engineers, and researchers from the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS must be secured, with priority given to women and youth, not only in international collaborative marine scientific research, capacity building programmes and OSTI projects but also in global ocean governance.
- The economies of many LDCs, including Tanzania, are built on terrestrial resources and ocean-related economic activities. In this regard, pooling the expertise and having a regulated ocean-based economy (the blue economy) is imperative for delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Doha Program of Action.
- Investing in science and responsible technology allows for the protection and sustainable use of the ocean and is therefore an opportunity to deliver the SDGs. Building relevant

marine scientific and technical capacities today, including investing in women's participation and empowerment in marine science, will enable developing countries, in particular LDCs, including Tanzania, LLDC, including Nepal, and SIDS, to participate in different traditional and emerging ocean-based economies.

- Mining, and particularly potential deep-sea mining, is facing great skills gap; therefore capacity development, education and information exchange within the industry and beyond is of key importance and an increasing concern.
- There is a foreseen gap in the demand and supply of critical minerals that are essential for green energy transition and associated industries that is needed to meet the global climate ambitions, and mineral exploration helps us to understand more about mineral distribution, their potential future use, and how they could benefit developing countries.

### **Key recommendations for action**

- The effective collaboration of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS with international organizations like ISA and UNTBLDC in raising awareness on the importance of the oceans, conducting scientific research on oceans, developing and transferring modern marine technology would support the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of these countries.
- Free and equitable access for all stakeholders to ocean science, technology, and innovation (OSTI), as non-exclusive global public goods must be ensured to realize its full potential to cater to the development needs of all member states, including LDCs like Tanzania and LLDCs like Nepal.
- Ocean-related economic activities need robust capacity, science and technological innovation. Further coordination with the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developing Countries and the International Seabed Authority will strengthen both organization's mandates to promote and encourage the transfer of relevant technology and scientific knowledge to developing States.
- The dynamic ocean economy of the future needs to go hand in hand with the efforts to improve its sustainability, including by applying frontier technologies, with science and research being foundational for sustaining the ocean economy.
- Scientific and technological advances play a crucial role, both in addressing many of the ocean-related environment challenges and in further developing ocean-based economic activities.

It is critical that we continue to prioritize investment in marine scientific research and ocean sciences, technology and innovation, as key aspects for the sustainable development across the global oceans require strong investment in systematic and sustained ocean observation, data generation, management and analyses, as well as technology development, deployment and capacity building for future responsible ocean management.