Urban shorelines are places where the economic and ecosystemic viability of the ocean directly intersects with that of the city. Shorelines are home to large global populations and assets, as well as some of the world’s richest biodiversity. Their economic and ecosystemic value is undeniable.

Accelerated action is critically important to protect, restore, and renew coastal communities, biological habitats, and physical assets. By focusing on leveraging the interlinkages between Goals 14 and 11, and incorporating Goals 9, 15, 3, and 4 and by working on the nexus between oceans, cities, infrastructure, innovation, education, and health, we can make this action most effective.

There is an urgent need to develop resilient interfaces between oceans and cities by prioritizing the innovation of coastal infrastructure. To tackle this challenge, we must deploy scientific expertise and design intelligence through intergenerational and cross-disciplinary collaborations among experts, stakeholder agencies, green and blue financing sources, and youth.

With time running out to meet 2030 targets, it is unacceptable that many innovative projects with the potential to affect real step-change are suspended in a state of limbo between research and application. It is imperative that these initiatives are given the opportunity to make a real, transformational impact.

However, we all know that major bottlenecks in regulation and finance stand in the way of fast action that could bring solutions to bear on climate change.

To accelerate action toward piloting and scaling nature-based coastal infrastructure projects and mobilize all relevant actors, the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization is convening a pledge-based stakeholder event in New York City with support from the Rockefeller Foundation. We invite you to reach out to us and get involved!