

Request for inputs for the Secretary-General's Report on "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations"

Contribution from Ireland

31 May 2024

Ireland's *Second National Strategy for Small Island Developing States* prioritises sustainable ocean development in small islands. In the Caribbean, Ireland is working with international and regional partners to support coastal communities in promoting resilient and sustainable management of the marine environment.

Ireland supports a partner in the Caribbean which offers parametric insurance products that makes pay-outs to Caribbean governments to support the most vulnerable coastal communities, based on pre-defined weather event criteria. This is intended to promote resilience and sustainable management of the marine environment, leading to a stronger blue economy in the region.

Ireland also supports PROBLUE, the World Bank Sustainable Blue Economy Trust Fund, which supports sustainable marine and coastal resources and is active in the Caribbean.

In 2022 Ireland launched a bilateral ocean innovation programme for Small Island Developing States – *Our Shared Ocean* – to support strategic research partnerships and knowledge exchanges between our islands. The programme is supporting research partnerships between Irish and Caribbean ocean experts to identify innovative responses to the challenges facing the Caribbean islands in relation to coastal resilience and marine protection and to explore new opportunities for sustainable ocean development in the region.

In 2023 we expanded our partnerships to support locally-led initiatives in the Caribbean that are delivering nature-based solutions for coastal resilience, strengthening local governance and supporting sustainable income generation in these communities.

Through our membership of the *Partnership for Atlantic Cooperation*, Ireland is working with Caribbean partners as part of a wider coalition of 39 Atlantic states committed to conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity and ensuring the Atlantic Ocean is a healthy and resilient resource for future generations.