Standards and best practices are urgently needed to enable policy, technology, and science to measure, monitor, and sustainably manage ocean resources. Sustainably managing the ocean is inseparable from addressing the climate crisis. The preparatory note for this meeting states in paragraph 40, “Enabling sustainable ocean economies that safeguard ocean health requires [...] facilitating knowledge exchange and best practice-sharing.”

We advocate for including technology and science perspectives in the action panels. These inputs and perspectives are invaluable, especially in highlighting the need for and importance of interoperability and standardization. This is relevant to all the proposed Action Panel themes, especially 2, 3, 7, 8, and 10. Interoperability matters across technology, science, and policy. Creating, sharing, and implementing open standards and best practices will enable solutions to meet the goals of SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda.

Ocean governance, which involves the frameworks and processes that regulate the use and protection of marine environments and ensure the sustainable and equitable use of ocean resources, necessitates the integration of both policy and technology. Standards and best practices are essential in this regard, guiding the actions of diverse stakeholders towards common goals and creating trust and interoperability of information we use for policy and decisions.

The Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) is instrumental in this process. OBPS facilitates dialogue and coordination among different sectors and cultural backgrounds by collecting, standardizing, and disseminating best practices. This integration ensures that innovative technological solutions are aligned with robust policy frameworks. Such a holistic approach is crucial for treating the ocean as a common good that transcends national boundaries, ultimately supporting sustainable and equitable ocean stewardship in line with the UN Ocean Decade’s goals.

As a global standards and technical body, IEEE plays a significant role in promoting the use of standards and best practices to support sustainable and equitable ocean stewardship. Professional organizations such as IEEE can be impartial mediators for creating and sharing standards and best practices, thereby contributing to the advancement of ocean governance.

Interoperability of practices, policies, and technology is crucial for sustainably measuring, managing, and monitoring ocean resources and implementing SDG 14.