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UNDRR Inputs to Ocean Action Panels Concept Papers

B. Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.

- Promoting marine and coastal nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction and promoting risk-informed integrated coastal zone management is key to achieving sustainable development. Nature-based solutions are important mechanisms that connect biodiversity, climate change and disaster risk reduction challenges and provide benefits to address all three, with direct benefits to human wellbeing. This is particularly relevant for SIDS and coastal countries and communities that are increasingly vulnerable to environmental and hydro-meteorological hazards connected to the Ocean and subsequent disasters threatening livelihoods.
- The ministerial declaration adopted at UNEA-6[1] (paragraph i) calls for action on incorporating environmental considerations, including related to biodiversity, ocean and water, into disaster risk management policies and actions. However, the reverse is also needed: risk-informed, forward-looking approaches must be considered in environmental agreements, agendas and processes, including in the context of coastal and marine ecosystems. This includes the development and availability of risk knowledge and data that enables comprehensive assessments to inform policies and actions.
- As more than 3 billion people rely on the marine environment for 20% of their dietary protein and up to 120 million people for their livelihood[2], the restoration of healthy marine ecosystems is also critical for the reduction of people's vulnerability to hazards. The reduction of marine pollution, Target 14.1, in particular from plastic waste and microplastics (both considered hazards in the Hazard Information Profiles[3]), and promotion of sustainable fishing practices, Target 14.4, are critical to reduce risk to human health and wellbeing and to build the resilience of coastal communities.
- Plastic pollution has been particularly affecting marine and coastal ecosystem resilience. Both microplastics and plastic waste have been recognized as hazards of relevance to risk reduction and resilience building[4] and must be addressed to strengthen the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems. They diminish ecosystem resilience, including the capacity of ocean and coastal ecosystems, such as coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, to adapt to a changing climate.

[1] Final_draft_ministerial_declaration_UNEA-6-29December2023.pdf
[2] The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2024
[3] Hazard Information Profiles (HIPs) | UNDRR
[4] Hazard Information Profiles Online Reference (2023). United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. www.preventionweb.net/drr-glossary/hips

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D. Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.

- It is important to consider the linkages between ecosystems from source to sea. For example, in terms of pollution, most of the plastic pollution littering the ocean is generated on land.
- Disasters, particularly extreme weather events such as hurricanes and floods, often lead to an expressive number of debris, such as plastic pollution, including in coastal communities where they can increase marine plastic pollution. Given the worldwide trend of increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, disaster-related pollution, including plastic pollution, must be tackled. It is therefore crucial that resilient infrastructure standards, including for waste management, are implemented to prevent the leaching of debris into the ocean because of extreme weather events.
- Plastic pollution also poses threats to water and food security and the livelihoods of millions of people and communities through particular impacts to fishing and tourism. This will further increase vulnerability of people to more chances of disasters, including flooding, storm surges and other meteorological hazards. Moreover, the carbon footprint of plastics is significant, accounting for approximately 3.4[5] per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions throughout their full life cycle in 2019, exacerbating disaster risks associated with frequent and intense extreme weather events.

E. Leveraging Ocean, climate, and biodiversity interlinkages.

- As climate change heats the oceans, ocean-related hazards such as storms, sea level rise and salt intrusion have the potential to become more intense.
- Investing in scientific knowledge for coastal resilience is essential for addressing immediate risks and strengthening community resilience against ocean-related hazards. This requires a comprehensive approach that integrates disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation. Progress in marine science, research, and technology plays a critical role in conserving and restoring marine ecosystems, thereby bolstering their resilience and capacity to shield coastal communities.
- To strengthen the global response to climate change, it is crucial to scale up risk-informed climate action to reduce vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards and disasters and to avoid maladaptation. Integrating risk-informed planning, programmes and financing, and promoting comprehensive disaster risk reduction and climate risk management is key.
- Loss and damage can come from extreme events like floods and hurricanes which are becoming more frequent and intense due to human-driven climate change, as well as from slower-moving disasters like sea level rise and ocean acidification, largely caused by climate change. Providing countries with support through capacity-building, financial resources, data and technology and partnerships, is essential for preventing, reducing, and managing the impacts of climate-related loss and damage.
- Implementing risk-informed planning into biodiversity conservation and management efforts can significantly support achieving SDG14 including by establishing marine

[5] www.oecd.org/environment/plastics/increasedplastic-leakage-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions.htm

protected areas. Given the interconnected nature of ocean, climate, and biodiversity it is vital to prioritize the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction, as promoted by the BBNJ agreement (Target 14.c).

F. Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind.

- As laid out in the 2023 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction[6], with over 80 per cent of the volume of global trade in goods carried by sea, seaports are key nodes in the network of global supply chains as well as the ocean economy, and vital to trade and development. At the same time, these complex infrastructure assets, often integrated within large urban agglomerations, are at the frontline of climate change. Related impacts can result in significant damage, as well as costly disruption and delay across supply chains, with potentially far-reaching consequences for international trade and the sustainable development prospects of the most vulnerable nations, including SIDS, that depend on their seaports as lifelines for trade, energy, food, tourism and in the context of DRR.
- Global port-specific risk from natural hazards has been estimated at US$ 7.5 billion per year[7], with 32 per cent[8] of the risk attributed to tropical cyclone impacts, and an additional US$ 63.1 billion[9] of trade estimated to be at risk. Under increased global warming, seaports will be exposed to rising sea levels that could overwhelm their current defenses and lead to extensive flooding and operational disruptions.
- With maritime trade expected to triple by 2050[10] and climate-driven hazards expected to increase, significant acceleration of investment in climate change adaptation and resilience-building for ports is needed to avert, minimize, and address damages or losses and safeguard supply chains. Major scaling-up of affordable investment in infrastructure adaptation will be critical for developing countries, particularly vulnerable SIDS that are sea-locked and therefore depend particularly on their ports and airports. Work on resilient infrastructure, including through stress-testing of critical infrastructure has been undertaken across regions, including, for example, in the Caribbean region[11].

H. Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.

- One crucial component to mitigate the risks of ocean-related hazards is the development and strengthening of multi-hazard and impact-based early warning systems for anticipatory and early action. In 2022, the UN Secretary-General launched the Early Warnings for All initiative, which, in alignment with Target G of the Sendai

[6] https://www.undrr.org/gar/gar2023-special-report
[7] Multi-hazard risk to global port infrastructure and resulting trade and logistics losses - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
[8] Multi-hazard risk to global port infrastructure and resulting trade and logistics losses - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
[9] Multi-hazard risk to global port infrastructure and resulting trade and logistics losses - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
[10] https://www.wri.org/insights/how-to-decarbonize-international-shipping
[11] B43 - Stoddard - Stress-testing the resilience of critical infrastructure.pdf

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[12], seeks to cover every person on the globe with an early warning system by 2027. The initiative is being implemented by several UN entities, international organizations, and development partners under the lead of UNDRR and WMO. This initiative can spur action to increase resilience to ocean-related hazards and disaster risk at large, including for coastal communities.

UNDRR Recommendations of panelists and moderators:

1. **Stefan Grilli**
   Job Title: Distinguished Professor and Chair, Ocean Engineering
   Organization: Graduate School of Oceanography, Rhode Island University
   Email: grilli@uri.edu
   Area(s) of expertise: Geohazards, coastal storms and tsunami impact.
   https://web.uri.edu/gso/meet/stephan-t-grilli-ph-d/
   Gender: Male
   Nationality: Belgium/ US

2. **Barbara Pompili (VB)**
   Job Title: Special Envoy to the President of the French Republic for Water
   Organization: Office of the President, Government of France
   Email: barbara.pompili@pm.gouv.fr ; virginie.dumoulin@pm.gouv.fr
   Area(s) of expertise: former Minister of the Ecological Transition until 2022.Currently, she serves as the French *President's Special Envoy* for the One Water Summit and Chair of the OECD Water Governance Initiative.
   Gender: Female
   Nationality: French

3. **Zulfiya Suleimenova (VB)**
   Job Title: Advisor to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on International Environmental Cooperation
   Organization: Office of the President, Government of Kazakhstan
   Email:
   Area(s) of expertise: Co-Chair of the One Water summit, aiming at fostering joint initiatives on global water governance and Former Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan.
   Gender: Female
   Nationality: Kazakhstan

4. **Elizabeth Cook (VB)**
   Job Title: Executive Vice President for Governance and Development
   Alternate: Ms. Cynthia Barzuna, Ocean Action 2030 Coalition Director at WRI.
   Organization: World Resource Institute (WRI)
   Email: lcook@wri.org
   Area(s) of expertise: She works with WRI's Global Board and staff to scale up the organization's priority initiatives. Prior to her current role, Liz directed WRI's Sustainable Enterprise Program, which harnessed the power of business to create profitable solutions to environment and development challenges. She also led WRI's interdisciplinary Climate Protection Initiative, which partnered with companies to identify policies and business strategies for achieving strong climate goals. Liz has advised numerous Fortune 500 companies on how to strengthen corporate sustainability commitments.
   Gender: Female
   Nationality: USA (TBC)

[12] Global Target G: Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

5. **Peter Thomson (VB)**
   Job Title: UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean
   Organization: United Nations
   Email: peter.thomson@un.org ; christensent@un.org
   Area(s) of expertise: He leads global support for the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goal 14, to conserve and sustainably use the Ocean's resources. He served as President of the UN General Assembly, 2016-17. He was Fiji's Permanent Representative to the UN, 2010-2016. Currently, he also serves at the World Economic Forum initiative called 'Friends of Ocean Action'.
   Gender: Male
   Nationality: Australia

6. **Feleti Penitala Teo (VB)**
   Job Title: Prime Minister
   Organization: Government of Tuvalu
   Email: Through Official Channels.
   Area(s) of expertise: Previously served as interim Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum and Executive director at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.
   Gender: Male
   Nationality: Tuvaluan

7. **Henk WJ Ovink (VB)**
   Job Title: Executive Director and founding Commissioner
   Organization: Global Commission on the Economics of Water
   Email: henk.ovink@globalcommission.org
   Area(s) of expertise: Former First Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Kingdom of The Netherlands and Co-Chair of the UN World Water Conference in 2023.
   Gender: Male
   Nationality: Dutch

8. **Fiame Naomi Mataʻafa (VB)**
   Job Title: Prime Minister
   Organization: Government of Samoa
   Alternative: H.E. Mr. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Pa'olelei Luteru
   Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations
   Email: ccod.fiame.naomi.mataafa@bcommonwealth.uk ; samoa@samoanymission.ws
   Area(s) of expertise: Samoa's Prime Minister and advocate for Pacific Island concerns, including ocean governance and climate adaptation. She is engaged in the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Samoa holds the Chairmanship of The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) which is an intergovernmental organization that plays an integral role in carrying out advocacy for small island states and influencing international environmental policy. A priority area of advocacy for AOSIS has been global climate change and its detrimental socio-economic and environmental effects on small island states.
   Gender: Female
   Nationality: Samoan

9. **Dr. Asha de Vos (VB)**
   Job Title: Founder
   Organization: Oceanswell
   Email: https://ashadevos.com/#contact
   Area(s) of expertise: Marine biologist, ocean educator, and founder of Oceanswell, working on blue whale conservation in the Indian Ocean. Dr Asha de Vos is an internationally acclaimed Sri Lankan marine biologist, ocean educator, pioneer of long-term blue whale research within the Northern

Indian Ocean and strong advocate for diversity and equity in marine conservation. She is also an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Oceans Institute of the University of Western Australia.
Gender: Female
Nationality: Sri Lanka

10. **Dr. Rashid Sumaila (VB)**
    Job Title: Professor and Canada Research Chair in Interdisciplinary Ocean & Fisheries Economics.
    Organization: Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, and the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, University of British Columbia
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    Area(s) of expertise: Fisheries economist and advocate for sustainable marine economics.
    Gender: Male
    Nationality: South Africa / Nigeria

11. **Dr. Farah Obaidullah (VB)**
    Job Title: Founder and Director
    Organization: The Ocean and Us
    Email: info@theoceanandus.org
    Area(s) of expertise: Founder of The Ocean and Us which mission is to secure healthy oceans for the sake of human survival and human-wellbeing, and as a moral duty to all living beings. We do advocacy work across a range of pertinent ocean issues, from climate change, overfishing and pollution, to emerging threats such as deep-sea mining. We believe that in order to accelerate ocean solutions, we must promote the diversity of people working around the world for the ocean.
    Gender: Female
    Nationality: Pakistan

12. **Martin Koehring (VB)**
    Job Title: Ocean expert at the Economist Impact
    Organization: The World Ocean Initiative at the Economist
    Email: woicontact@economist.com
    Area(s) of expertise: Ocean Expert at the World Ocean Initiative that supports the development of a sustainable ocean economy by addressing the greatest challenges facing our seas: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Year-round and at our flagship World Ocean Summit, we inspire bold thinking, enable new partnerships and explore the most effective action for a healthy blue planet. Also served at and Senior Rapporteur at the World Water Week, Global Sustainability Expert, Charity Board Trustee and TEDx Speaker
    Gender: Male
    Nationality: English

13. **Bertrand de la Borde (VB)**
    Job Title: Director and Global Head Infrastructure
    Organization: International Finance Corporation (IFC)
    Email: EGex@ifc.org
    Area(s) of expertise: IFC is a global leader in financing the blue market and economy. Keeping our marine ecosystems healthy is directly linked to alleviating poverty and climate resilience. The financial and private sectors have a critical role to play in pivoting the global economic system toward preserving and increasing clean water resources, rebuilding ocean prosperity, restoring biodiversity, and regenerating ocean health. In 2022, IFC published Guidelines for Blue Finance.
    Gender: Male
    Nationality: French

14. **Alfredo Giron Nava (VB)**
    Job Title: Head, WEF Ocean Action Agenda
    Organization: World Economic Forum
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    Area(s) of expertise: Head of the World Economic Forum's Ocean Action Agenda and Friends of

Ocean Action, he has extensive experience in spearheading the creation of public-private partnerships to address pressing ocean challenges.
Gender: Male
Nationality: Mexico

15. **Laura Kong**
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    Gender: Female
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