



## UNIDO's proposed contribution to the UN Ocean Conference 2025

The present document summarizes the relevant expertise, potential contributions, and proposed areas of engagement from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to the UN Ocean Conference 2025, in response to a request by DESA USG LI Junhua (Ref. DESA-24/01789).

### Relevant Expertise and Potential Contributions

#### 1. Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency

- **Plastics and Pollution Reduction:** Expertise in minimizing plastic waste and advancing circular economy practices across value chains in South Africa, Ghana, and Morocco aligns with reducing marine pollution goals.
- **Blue Economy:** Focus on sustainable ocean resources, eco-innovative business models, and pollution reduction directly supports ocean conservation efforts.
- **Eco-Industrial Parks:** Integration of circular practices and nature-based infrastructure solutions (e.g., wetlands, vegetated swales) offers scalable models for reducing land-based pollution.
- **TEST Methodology:** Proven success in reducing wastewater discharges and pollution loads through Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) methods, particularly in river basins like the Niger, demonstrates scalable approaches to marine pollution reduction.

#### 2. Small and Medium Enterprises

- **Blue Industry Coordination:** Leadership of the Blue Industry Task Force ensures integration of sustainable practices across blue industries, promoting job creation, trade facilitation, and innovation.
- **Fisheries and Aquaculture:** Extensive support for sustainable fisheries policies, capacity building for SMEs, and sustainable trade practices enhances blue food security and poverty eradication.
- **Cross-Sectoral Linkages:** Work in eco-tourism, fisheries, marine conservation, and renewable energy fosters sustainable development in coastal communities.

#### 3. Energy and Climate Action

- **Decarbonization of Shipping and Ocean Energy:** Expertise in renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency, and decarbonization aligns with sustainable maritime transport and coastal resilience objectives.
- **Innovative Start-Ups:** Support for solutions like sargassum seaweed conversion and seaweed processing communities offers blue-green nexus opportunities.



- **Global Ocean Energy Alliance:** Facilitates partnerships between ocean energy industries and small island developing states.

## Proposed Areas of Engagement

Based on the above, UNIDO proposes to contribute to the following panels:

- **Panel (b): Conserving, sustainably managing, and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems**
  - Insights from the Blue Economy portfolio and eco-innovative approaches to sustainable marine resource use.
- **Panel (d): Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution**
  - Expertise in circular economy practices, TEST methodologies, and nature-based infrastructure for land-based pollution reduction.
- **Panel (f): Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies**
  - Experience with eco-industrial parks, mangrove restoration, and coastal resilience projects.
- **Panel (j): Mobilizing finance for ocean actions**
  - Proven frameworks for financing pollution reduction and circular economy initiatives, including nature-based infrastructure projects.

Additionally, based on UNIDO's expertise in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, the Organization could support:

- **Panel (a): Sustainable fisheries management**
- **Panel (g): Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean**

UNIDO remains available to organize and/or participate in panel discussions, side events, etc., and otherwise to engage with the UN system in the organization of the UN Ocean Conference.