



Investing in Ocean Solutions: Towards a Brighter Future for the Ocean

High Level Retreat

14-15 January 2025, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Orchard Room 2&3

PROGRAMME

14 JANUARY (TUESDAY): SETTING THE STAGE FOR UNOC3

08:30 - 09:30 | Registration

09:30-09:45 | Curtain Raiser: Live Puppetry Performance -The Shadow of the Sea by TUTOUT (뛰뛰)

(Master of Ceremony: Ms. Xin Feng, Sustainable Development Officer, Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA)

09:45-10:15 | Opening Session: Charting the Course for a Sustainable Ocean Future

- ❖ Welcome Address by Mr. Li Junhua, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs(5-7mins)
- ❖ Keynote Speeches by cohosts of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, Amb. Gina Guillen, Director General for Foreign Policy, Special Presidential Envoy for the Ocean of Costa Rica (5-7mins) & Amb. Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime issues, Special Envoy of the French President for the Third United Nations Ocean Conference(virtual)(5-7mins)
- ❖ H.E. Mr. Kang Do-Hyung, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea (5-7mins)
- ❖ Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP (virtual) (5-7mins)

10:15- 10:45| Group Photo and Coffee break

10:45- 11:45| Panel Discussion 1: Challenges and opportunities inherent in an inter-linked agenda

- Ocean's role in the broader inter-linked agenda: interlinkages and trade-offs between SDG14 and other SDGs, as well as ocean's crucial role in addressing triple planetary crisis
- ❖ H.E. Ms. Tania Romualdo, Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde to the United Nation: share the co-facilitators' vision for UNOC3 political declaration (7-10mins)
- ❖ Amb. Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean (7-10mins)
- ❖ Mr. Henry Gonzalez, Chief Investment Officer, Green Climate Fund (GCF) (7-10mins)
- ❖ Mr. Manuel Barange, Assistant DG and Director of Fisheries Division, FAO (virtual) (7-10mins)



- ❖ Moderator: - Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, Chief of Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA
- ❖ Q&A

11:45 - 12:45 | Fireside Chat: From ABAS to Nice Ocean Action Plan-Synergies and Priorities

- ❖ H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN
- ❖ H.E. Mr. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, (Samoa), Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- ❖ Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Conference Secretary-General of SIDS4 and UNOC3
- ❖ Moderator: Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

12:45 - 14:15 | Lunch Break

14:15 - 15:45 | Panel Discussion 2: Innovation and Collaboration: Designing the Path Forward for COA 2.0

- ❖ Presentation by Dr. Marjo Vierros on key findings of Implementation of Voluntary Commitments and their impact (7mins)
- **Discuss strategies for revitalizing COA efforts in the lead-up to the Nice Conference and transition towards COA2.0 post- Conference**
- ❖ Visions of the Cohosts of UNOC3 and Ambassador Peter Thomson (10mins)
- ❖ Presentation on the status of COAs and discussions with COA co-focal points and Sherpas (60mins)
Presentations to be between 5-7 minutes to enable a brief Q&A session.
 - Prof. Steve Widdicombe, COA on Ocean Acidification
 - Mr. Francis Staub, COA on Coral Reefs
 - Ms. Kirsten Isensee, IOC UNESCO- COA on Scientific Knowledge, Research Capacity Development and Transfer of Marine Technology
 - Mr. Pepe Clarke, WWF, COA on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Management
 - Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, COA on Sustainable Blue Economy and Moderator
 - Q&A

15:45 - 16:00 | Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:00 | Panel Discussion 3: BBNJ and Plastic Treaty negotiations - Sustaining Momentum and Doubling Efforts for Ocean Governance

- ❖ Amb. Gina Guillen, Special Presential Envoy on UNOC3 of Costa Rica (10 mins)
- ❖ Mr. Stephen Mathias Acting Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, video message): the implications of the new BBNJ Agreement, its potential impacts, and next steps for implementation. (7-10 mins)
- ❖ Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution and Head of the Secretariat: An update on the ongoing negotiations for the



international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, and the challenges and opportunities ahead (10 mins)

- ❖ Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, UNEP COBSEA(Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia) Coordinator: presenting on promoting Regional Ocean Governance
- ❖ Mr. Sergio Carvalho, Oceano Azul Foundation (moderator and panelist)
- ❖ Q&A

17:00 - 17:10 | Wrap-Up of Day 1

- Summary of key takeaways from the day's sessions and an outline of the agenda for Day 2.
 - Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, Chief of Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA

17:30 - 19:30 | Reception

15 JANUARY (WEDNESDAY): DEEP DIVE INTO OCEAN SOLUTIONS

09:00 - 09:30 | Morning Coffee and Networking

09:30 – 11:00 | Special Session: Dialogue with Stakeholders -Voices for Action

- An inclusive dialogue session with representatives from coastal communities, indigenous peoples, NGOs, and the private sector sharing their insights and solutions.
 - ❖ H.E. Ms. Tania Romualdo, Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde (10mins)
 - ❖ Ms. Céline Kahn, Oceano Azul Foundation (10mins)
 - ❖ Ms. Trina Leberer, Director for Pacific Regional Partnerships, The Nature Conservancy (10mins)
 - ❖ Ms. Anjali D. Boyd, Representatives from Youth(10mins)
 - ❖ Ms. Naiara Costa, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Outreach and Partnership Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA on stakeholder engagement in the preparatory process leading up to UNOC 3 and their key role towards the implementation of SDG 14. (7-10 minutes)
 - ❖ Interactive discussion moderated by Ms. Naiara Costa

11:00 - 11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:30 | Panel Discussion 4: Ocean-Based Solutions for Climate Change and Biodiversity

- Exploration of nature-based solutions, including blue carbon, marine protected areas, and ecosystem restoration as strategies to combat climate change and biodiversity loss.
 - ❖ Prof. Steve Widdicombe, Co-chair of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) Executive Council
 - ❖ Dr Abdulaziz Alsuwailem, Chief Conservation and Strategy Officer,General Organization for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Turtles in the Red Sea (SHAMS),co-Chair of International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
 - ❖ Mr. Pepe Clarke, Ocean Practice Team Lead, WWF



- ❖ Prof. Hyeong-Gi Kim, Assistant Professor, Department of Marine Environmental Sciences, Chungnam National University
- ❖ Moderator: Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head of the UN ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office UNESCAP
- ❖ Q&A

12:30 - 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:00 | Panel Discussion 5: Investing in Ocean-Based Economies- Unlocking Sustainable Investment Opportunities

- Insights into the potential of the blue economy, investment opportunities, and strategies to drive sustainable economic growth in coastal and ocean-based sectors in a way that promotes environmental conservation and social inclusion, leaving no one behind.
- ❖ Amb. Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua & Barbuda to the UN
- ❖ Mr. Pierre Bardoux, Director, Nature Asset Team & Global Funds for Coral Reefs (GFCR/Alternate)
- ❖ Ms. Lena Kern, Senior Marine Ecosystems Management Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- ❖ Ms. Cynthia Barzuna, Director, Ocean Action 2030 Coalition, Ocean Program, World Resources Institute (WRI)
- ❖ Moderator: Dr. Marjo Vierros, Director of Coastal Policy and Humanities Research
- ❖ Q&A

15:00 - 15:15 | Coffee Break

15:15 - 16:15 | Panel Discussion 6: Bridging Gaps: From Science to Policy to Practice

- Experts discuss how to effectively integrate scientific research, traditional knowledge, policy frameworks, and community initiatives to achieve tangible results in ocean sustainability.
- ❖ Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission UNESCO (via video message) (7mins)
- ❖ Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi, Director, International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) (10mins)
- ❖ Dr. Marjo Vierros, Director of Coastal Policy and Humanities Research (10mins)
- ❖ Dr. David Obura from Kenya, the chair of IPBES and a coral reef scientist (10mins)
- ❖ Moderator: Ms. Kirsten Isensee, IOC UNESCO
- ❖ Q&A

16:15 - 16:30 | Closing Session: The Road Ahead for Nice

- Summary of key insights from the workshop with inputs from participants on Padlet : UNDESA
- ❖ Closing Remarks by Amb. Thomson