



**ECOSOC
Partnership
Forum**

SDG Action Segment for Goal 14

**Organized by the UNEP, UNESCO-IOC, Scientific and Technological
Community Major Group, Major Group for Children and Youth,
Indigenous Peoples Major Group**

Background and objectives

The SDG Action Segment for Goal 14, convened as part of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, discussed ways to conserve and sustainability use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by leveraging partnerships and collaboration. This Action Segment focused on SDG 14 implementation efforts that align with the 2025 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) theme of *“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind.”* The session highlighted the role that science-based policy, greater ocean research and data collection, capacity building and knowledge sharing, and multisectoral partnerships play in achieving the 2030 Agenda and in addressing the triple-planetary crisis and encouraged discussion in these areas.

Key issues discussed

Panelists and participants discussed challenges to partnerships, opportunities for strengthening collaboration, and capacity-building needs, initiatives and strategies that enable stakeholders to create and maintain effective partnerships to advance SDG 14. One of the main issues covered was bridging the financing gap and mobilizing funding to accelerate the implementation of SDG 14, which is the least-funded of all the SDGs. In addition to addressing financing challenges, participants detailed the barriers associated with knowledge gaps and data-sharing, particularly in regard to the establishment of indicators, early warning systems, and policies that enhance community resilience in the face of ocean-related disasters or events. In addition to knowledge-sharing for innovation and resilience, Panelists discussed the importance of creating science-based policies that are informed by the latest research and data. As noted during the session, this also involves capacity-building initiatives in developing countries to allow for data-sharing and enhance national research and data collection efforts. Another area of focus was the vital need to include Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and underrepresented groups such as SIDS across all initiatives and action aimed at achieving SDG 14. Equitable representation in ocean science, policy and decision-making, and ecosystem management is vital for effective progress to be made on SDG 14, with traditional and local knowledge reflected in these efforts.

Partnerships and opportunities

There are a variety of existing partnerships and collaboration initiatives to advance SDG 14 action and achieve the 2030 Agenda. One example of existing and impactful partnerships that are helping to make meaningful progress on ocean-related efforts is the use of blended finance instruments and public-private partnerships to leverage funding for sustainable development. These innovative mechanisms, such as public catalytic finance and de-risking private investments, demonstrates how partnerships can be used to unlock funding and finance impactful projects, capacity-building needs like MSME empowerment, and technologies that assist in implementing SDG 14. Science and policy partnerships, along with cultural partnerships and multilateral cooperation, are other critical ways to enhance collaboration and create more effective solutions for SDG 14. Assisting in environmental surveillance and monitoring, specifically for Marine Protected Areas, is exemplary of how Member States, regions, and communities can collaborate for ocean-related targets and goals. By working towards mutually beneficial and common goals, these partners can generate meaningful change that enables sustainable development at all levels.

Furthermore, there are opportunities for new areas of collaboration related to SDG 14. Many upcoming conferences and forums are convening stakeholders and actors to address key areas of sustainable development, including goals related to SDG 14. Participants highlighted events such as the Third United Nations Ocean Conference, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Blue Economy and Finance Forum, where discussions and outcomes will catalyze action on issues from financing to ocean conservation and sustainable marine resource use. Moreover, participants highlighted how the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Ocean Decade) is serving as a transformative framework to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships, enhance scientific collaboration, and mobilize resources to accelerate progress on SDG 14. Through its global network of programs, initiatives, and collaborative centers, the Ocean Decade is driving the co-design of innovative solutions, strengthening capacity-building efforts, and bridging the gap between science, policy, and society to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of the ocean.

To enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships for SDG 14, panelists and participants provided policy recommendations to drive ocean-related actions. One key area for multi-stakeholder partnerships is fostering support for enabling environments and expanding resources for Low-Income Countries and Middle-Income Countries, including education initiatives and the extension of partnerships to include civil society and academia. Panelists also stressed the critical role that public-private partnerships play in funding the implementation of SDG 14, including through blue bonds and investing in blue economies.

Participants further underscored the importance of improving synergies between ocean and climate policy agendas and engaging in public consultations with all stakeholders, especially youth and vulnerable populations.

Moreover, participants urged the ratification of the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and delivering on its goals and the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Agreement.

Panelists also highlighted the work of International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS), an emerging body that is aimed at supporting states and accelerating the implementation of international commitments for conservation and sustainable use of the ocean. IPOS has received support from Member States, scientific institutions, universities, and other stakeholders, and panelists emphasized the importance of this initiative for the achievement of SDG 14.

Policy recommendations for enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships

The following conclusions and recommendations were presented by the rapporteur to the plenary meeting:

Firstly, catalyzing action on SDG 14 requires knowledge and data-sharing to bridge gaps and translate information into action. This includes the exchange of scientific, traditional, and local knowledge that can be used to inform policies and enhance community resilience in the face of climate change impacts and environmental disasters. This information is essential for the establishment of (key performance) indicators, early warning systems, marine biodiversity protection, and the sustainable use of ocean resources.

The importance of closing knowledge gaps is interconnected with the need to promote partnerships across governments, the private sector, academia, and the public, which is another key area for action on SDG 14.

Secondly - Breaking silos - through collaboration is critical for mobilizing stakeholders and accelerating the implementation of SDG 14 on all levels -- local, regional, and international. These partnerships can also help to provide policy and technical guidance that directly empowers action for the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems.

Next, enabling blue economies and investing in innovative finance solutions, like blue bonds and debt-for-nature swaps, will contribute to mobilize funding to achieve SDG 14. Leveraging private finance and promoting blended finance, such as public catalytic finance and de-risking private investments, is a crucial step in generating resources to pave the way for sustainable economies and is integral to encouraging investments in ocean health and biodiversity.

The inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth and other underrepresented groups must remain at the center of initiatives and action aimed at the implementation of SDG 14.

Finally, ensuring equitable representation in ocean science, policy and decision-making, and ecosystem management is vital for national needs to be reflected in priorities and policies directed at the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems, especially for countries most reliant on oceans.