

Commonwealth Intervention for Ocean Action Panel 8: Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional level

UN Ocean Conference

Thursday 12 June 2025

3:00 – 6:00 pm

Chair, thank you for the opportunity to deliver this intervention.

My name is Dr. Daniel Wilde, and I serve as Head of Oceans at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

It is a privilege to make this intervention on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The 56 Member States of Commonwealth cherish their special relationship with the ocean as it is essential to life on our planet.

But they remain gravely concerned about the global emergency facing the ocean.

It was in this context that, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa last year, the 56 heads of state of the Commonwealth adopted the Apia Commonwealth Ocean Declaration.

This pivotal declaration is far-reaching and is designed to protect the ocean in the face of severe climate change impacts, pollution, and exploitation.

It includes strong provisions on countries maintaining their exclusive economic zones despite sea level rise, a tripling of marine renewable energy, and sustainable management of 100% of the ocean.

It also calls for an effective and ambitious, international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics.

At the Commonwealth Secretariat we are focused on implementing this declaration through four programmes.

The first is the Blue Charter Incubator, which funds governments to pilot innovative ocean solutions.

The second is our technical assistance programme on maritime boundary negotiations and BBNJ.

The third is our Blue Charter Action Group programme, under which commonwealth countries champion 10 action groups on different ocean issues.

And the fourth is the Blue Finance Working Group, which is helping countries unlock investment in the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean.

It is our hope that as a global community, we can turn our shared commitments into real, measurable progress for a healthier and more resilient ocean.

Thank you for your time.