Enhancing Implementation of UNOC3 Voluntary Commitments with a Focus on Ocean–Climate Interlinkages:

Capacity-Building Workshop for the Asia–Pacific Region

26-27 October 2026

UNESCAP MR-G, Bangkok, Thailand

PROGRAMME

Time	Session
Monday, 26 October	
13:30-14:00	**Registration (Venue: MR-G ESCAP, Bangkok)**
OPENING SESSION	
14:00 – 14:30	*Master of ceremony:* ***Ms. Xin Feng****, Sustainable Development Officer, Strategic Planning and Communications Unit, Office of the Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA* ❖ **High-level Opening Address: Amb. Peter Thomson,** UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean (video message) (3mins) ❖ **Welcome remarks: Mr. Lorenzo Santucci**, Chief, Environmental and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP (4 mins) ❖ **Opening remarks: Ms. Jihyun Kim,** Senior Deputy Director in the Preparatory Office for UNOC4 of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (3-4 mins) **[Group Photo]**
SESSION I: Mapping Ocean–Climate Voluntary Commitments — Key Findings and Horizon-Scanning	
14:30 – 15:15	**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: "Key Findings of the Regional Voluntary Commitments Analysis: Horizon-Scanning on Ocean–Climate Interlinkages"** **- Dr. Marjo Vierros,** Director, Coastal Policy and Humanities Research (*virtual*) (30 mins) Q&A (15 mins)
15:15-15:30	**Partner Perspective: Lessons from Our Ocean Conference Voluntary Commitments** *World Resources Institute (WRI), Mr. Alex Lee-Emery (virtual)*
15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee break**
SESSION II: VC Implementation in Practice — Thematic Discussions	
16:00- 16:55	**A. VCs on legal dimensions** ❖ **Introductory remarks from theme facilitator (5 mins) - Ms. Athina Chanaki,** Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations ❖ **Case study presentations by VC holders** - **Mr. Liang Xia,** Professor, Shanghai Ocean University - Ratification of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) (10-12 mins)

	- **Ms. Aliti Trina Radevo,** Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the UN (10-12 mins) Q&A / discussion (10 mins)
16:55 – 17:00	**Wrap up and close of Day 1**
Tuesday, 27 October	
09:15 - 09:30	**Arrival**
SESSION II Continued: VC Implementation in Practice — Thematic Discussions	
09:30 – 10:30	**B. VCs on Marine Protected Areas and ecosystem restoration** ❖ **Introductory remarks from theme facilitator (5 mins) - Ms. Maeve Nightingale,** Regional Coordinator for the IUCN Coastal and Marine Programme in IUCN Asia *(confirmed)* ❖ **Case study presentations by VC holders** - **Mr. Fabio Siksei,** Fisheries Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment, Palau, 30% marine protection by 2030, with an aspiration toward 100% sustainable management of the Pacific Ocean (10-12 mins) - **Ms. Lea Candare Avilla,** Supervising Science Research Specialist, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Ocean Environments Task Force, Philippines (10-12 mins) - **Mr. Alpha Oumar Diallo,** Deputy Director at the Office of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves of Guinea (10-12 mins) (virtual) Q&A / discussion (10mins)
10:30 – 10:45	**Coffee break**
SPECIAL SESSION: Regional Perspective and Guidance on Designing a Successful VC	
10:45 – 11:15	❖ **Mr. Manuel Castillo,** Environmental Governance Lead, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP - *Regional Perspective on Ocean-climate priorities and regional cooperation across Asia and the Pacific* ❖ **Ms. Carol Pollack,** Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA - *Designing, Monitoring and Evaluating a Successful VC ahead of UNOC4*
SESSION II Continued: VC Implementation in Practice — Thematic Discussions	
11:15 – 12:15	**C. VCs on Blue Carbon, Blue Finance and blue NDCs** ❖ **Introductory remarks from theme facilitator (5 mins) - Mr. Mahesh Pradhan,**

	Coordinator, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), Regional Seas Branch, Ecosystems Division, UNEP ❖ **Case study presentations by VC holders** - **Mrs. Poonsri Wanthongchai,** Director of the Coastal Community and Network Management Division, Thailand, Protecting 30% of Thai mangrove by 2030 (10-12 mins) - **Ms. Thi Phuong Vu**, UNCLOS National Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viet Nam, Mobilise green finance for sustainable marine economic development (10-12 mins) - **Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry,** Senior Adviser to the Minister on Ecology and Marine Resources Affairs, Indonesia, Finalise the Indonesia Coral Reef Bond - the world's first non-sovereign, non-debt instrument for coral reef conservation (10-12 mins) ❖ **Connect with partners:** - France, Blue NDC challenge (10 mins) (tbd) Q&A / discussion (10 mins)
CLOSING SESSION	
12:15 – 12:30	❖ **Closing remarks: Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee**, Chief, Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA (video message) (3-4 mins) ❖ **Chile, cohost of UN Ocean Conference in 2028 (virtual)**
12:30	**Close of workshop and lunch**