



COMMUNITIES OF OCEAN ACTION

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14

Side Event

Communities of Ocean Action (COAs) in support of the implementation of SDG14

United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 7, 1:15-2:30 p.m., 28 March 2019

At the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), held in June 2017 at UN headquarters in New York, close to 1,400 voluntary commitments for concrete action to advance implementation of SDG 14 were made by governments, the United Nations system, civil society organizations, academia, the scientific community, and the private sector. As of 22 March 2019, 1,524 voluntary commitments are registered at the Ocean Conference website (<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>).

To follow-up on these voluntary commitments, the United Nations launched nine thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action (COAs) in November 2017. Each community is coordinated by designated Co-focal points who work together with United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in carrying out their activities.

The nine COAs are:

1. Coral reefs
2. Implementation of international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
3. Mangroves
4. Marine and coastal ecosystems management
5. Marine pollution
6. Ocean acidification
7. Scientific knowledge, research capacity development and transfer of marine technology
8. Sustainable blue economy
9. Sustainable fisheries

This event, to be held in the margins of the second session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, aims to bring together the representatives of the Co-focal points of the COAs and members in these Communities, with a view to raising awareness of COAs and their work among the participants of the above-mentioned Intergovernmental Conference, sharing experiences and lessons learned in implementing these voluntary commitments and considering what the COAs can do to contribute to the implementation of SDG 14.

Speakers include the representatives of the Co-focal points and members of the Communities of Ocean Action (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea/Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Seabed Authority (ISA), The Nature Conservancy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)).