



United Nations Division for Sustainable Development Goals  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Meeting of the Communities of Ocean Action  
From Commitments to Action: Implementing SDG14**

**30–31 May 2019**  
Incheon, Republic of Korea

**Background Note**

**Session III: Experiences in Implementation (Contd.)**

B. Lessons from the COAs on Sustainable blue economy and Scientific knowledge, research capacity development and transfer of marine technology

**Background**

A sustainable ocean-based economy can include diverse components, from established ocean industries, such as fisheries, tourism and maritime transport, to emerging and new activities, such as offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, deep seabed extractive activities and marine biotechnology. The mix of activities will depend on each country's unique national circumstances but will go beyond business as usual by providing social and economic benefits for current and future generations; restoring, protecting and maintaining the diversity, productivity, resilience, core functions, and intrinsic value of marine ecosystems; and being based on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows. Over 380 voluntary commitments (VCs) are related to sustainable ocean-based economic development. The Community of Ocean Action (COA) on Sustainable blue economy aims to support its members in implementing their VCs related to sustainable blue economy by exchanging progress reports, experiences, lessons learned and good practices.

Sustainable management and conservation of the ocean requires a solid and trusted knowledge base upon which decisions are based. Promoting science-based solutions and their systematic transformation into informed policies underpin the successful attainment of SDG14. Traditional knowledge, based on generations of close interaction with the ocean environment, can provide a similarly important foundation for stewardship. Technology can support the achievement of SDG14, for example, by helping to deliver more efficient and sustainable fishing methods, enhance monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities, facilitate pollution prevention and clean-up, and enhance marine spatial planning. More than 590 VCs are registered with the COA on Scientific knowledge, research capacity development and transfer of marine technology.



**Guiding questions to frame the discussion:**

- What are the good practices and lessons learned in the delivery of the VCs belonging to these COAs?
- Where do you see outstanding gaps in the coverage of existing VCs belonging to these COAs?
- What should be considered to accelerate the progress in the implementation of VCs by these COAs?
- How can these COAs develop and implement an effective strategy to catalyze and generate additional VCs in the lead up to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference?