

**UN-Oceans High-level Side Event, 29 June 2022****United Nations Ocean Conference 2022****Lisbon, Altice Arena, Side event room 1, Wednesday 29 June, 16:00 – 17:15****Concept Note****Title:**

“Scaling up ocean action through inter-agency cooperation and coordination - Case studies, challenges and opportunities”

Description:

“The COVID-19 Pandemic has created new challenges and exacerbated old challenges for the oceans, but it has also provided the international community with an opportunity to pause and take stock of the challenges faced by the oceans and to reflect on how these could be addressed through a process of “building back better” The 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference provides a timely opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to reflect on lessons learned, and to identify innovative and transformative ways to address the continued deterioration of the oceans and their resources. Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation can contribute not only to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and all other ocean-related Goals, but also ultimately to the achievement of sustainable development more broadly. Cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder partnerships are a key tool for achieving the integrated management of the oceans and their resources. The United Nations, acting as one, through inter-agency cooperation and coordination for the oceans provides the platform for addressing the cumulative challenges facing our ocean at the global and regional levels, with demonstrable benefits for Member States and other stakeholders. UN-Oceans, as the inter-agency mechanism bringing together international organizations in the United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority, has played and will continue to play a role in identifying and building on synergies to promote transformational partnerships that enhance coordination, coherence and the effectiveness of United Nations system activities in relation to oceans.

Objective

This side event will provide an opportunity to take stock of the innovative and successful partnerships developed by members within the framework of UN-Oceans, focusing on case studies where inter-agency cooperation and partnerships have resulted in strengthened ocean-related action for the achievement of SDG-14. Bringing together principals at the highest level of UN-Oceans member organizations [under the leadership of the Secretary-General], the event will also provide the opportunity to engage in a robust and forward-looking discussion regarding how UN-Oceans can more effectively contribute to scaled-up ocean action through enhanced inter-agency cooperation, including with regard to the role of science, and with a focus on practical and implementable solutions.

One sentence description - *UN-Oceans, the inter-agency mechanism for cooperation and coordination in ocean affairs will discuss partnerships and how enhanced inter-agency cooperation can contribute to scaling-up ocean action.*

Format:

This side event will be in three parts.

- **The first segment** will consist of a high-level introduction of the importance of inter-agency cooperation and coordination in oceans affairs and the law of the sea, including through UN-Oceans.
- **The second segment** will consist of rapid-fire presentations by selected members of UN-Oceans on case studies of past or current ocean-related initiatives where impacts were amplified through inter-agency cooperation and partnerships. This segment will place a particular focus on action reflecting the role of science, and areas in which innovative solutions were developed. This will underscore the value of interagency cooperation, including through UN-Oceans, in providing a means to scale up action through engagement across the UN system when, for instance, considering undertaking projects in a particular sector.
- **The third segment** will consist of a roundtable amongst the principals of UN-Oceans Members to discuss how the inter-agency mechanism can, within its mandate, leverage opportunities for enhanced cooperative action among its membership for the implementation of Goal 14, and in particular to assist developing States. This segment will consist of an open and dynamic conversation focused on what more could be done, and how it could be done better, to achieve greater impact through collaboration. UN-Oceans Members will be invited to put forward concrete proposals in this respect, with a particular focus on the role of ocean science and innovation. Participating States and other stakeholders will also be invited to engage in the discussion.