

**Second Oceans Forum on**  
**Trade-related Aspects of Sustainable Development**  
*Enabling sustainable and integrated seafood and living marine*  
*resources value chains and related services*

**Goal 14**

**Geneva, 16–17 July 2018**

Mr. Peter Thomson UNSG Special Envoy, it is to the great satisfaction of the global ocean community and our honour to have you in the Chair of this UN second ocean forum. Your presence is clear evidence that our ocean is no longer neglected, and its impact and relevance to livelihood and happiness of people is integrated in the sustainable development agenda beyond the stand-alone development goal SDG14.

On behalf of the International Ocean Institute (IOI) I wish to express our deep appreciation to the Secretary General of UNCTAD and his secretariat for having addressed holistically the critical interdependence of economic, social and environment parameters of the 2030 sustainable development goals as identified in the secretariat papers on bio-trade value chain.

This forum is the result of collaboration and cooperation of two UNCTAD divisions realising the interconnectivity of SDG14 with other identified sustainable goals in such challenges as climate change, economic security, social development, poverty reduction, and maritime and transport logistics, for all of which cross cutting principles and criteria have been elaborated.

This cooperation between division and branches in addressing interrelated and interdependent core challenges of trade, blue growth protection of biodiversity in trade and development is UNCTAD at its best.

We also consider as an encouraging sign that the international intuitional architecture for ocean governance can be changed from a silos mentality to a cross-cutting one, so that the gap between aspirational rule making and effective cross-cutting implementation is significantly reduced.

An indicator of this is the ground-breaking elaboration by UNCTAD of the Bio-Trade Principles and Criteria. Therein we do have a corner stone for cross-cutting action and support for the bio-trade value chain as it addresses principles of conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable exploitation, fair and equitable benefit sharing, socio-economic sustainability, financial and markets management tools, compliance, respect of stakeholders' rights and clarity about tenure,

use and access to natural resources, and just as importantly, access to knowledge.

As we are aware, at about the same time last year, the EU, in a form of partnership with the European Commission, the WWF, the Prince of Wales International Sustainability Unit, and the European Investment Bank developed a set of voluntary Blue Economy Financing Principles. Those principles were expressly intended to further the implementation of the SDGs, especially those which contribute to the management of the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Here we see not only congruence of approaches but much needed complementarities between the two sets of principles as it opens the door for consensus building in providing valuable synergies and interagency cooperation for bio trade value chain sustainable solutions.

Similarly, is the contribution of the Commonwealth Blue Charter for sustainable ocean development and its guiding principles. I may even add the set of principles elaborated by the High Seas Alliance for the forthcoming negotiations on BBNJ which viewed together as critical mass may very well narrow the gap between differing negotiating positions at the forthcoming conference on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

We at IOI, are a knowledge-based institution established in 1972 by Elisabeth Mann Borgese with the principle objective of capacity building and capacity development through transfer of science and knowledge, and the IOI vocation for compliance and implementation through training, education, transfer of skills and ocean literacy. While traditionally our target community have been the SIDS, developing countries and countries in transition, we also see the ocean as our all-inclusive human common heritage of all peoples and nations excluding none.

While not a policy- or rule-making institution, the IOI does promote through its world-wide centres (and training programmes) the implementation of capacity for universally agreed voluntary or mandatory governance as a culture of collective and individual responsibilities.

Building sustainable development capacities goes beyond advocacy and traditional methods of literacy. Knowledge is not a matter of acquiring information but has to be a process of transformation and policy comprehension among a multiplicity of conflicting interests. Of course, being aware of the relevance of bio-trade value chain, its inherent science, tools, synergies relevant to its efficiency may not automatically guarantee successful implementation and compliance.

At IOI, our task is listen to you the experts, understand the basic science, comprehend the challenges and opportunities, and to note best practices and your final recommendations. Our task is then to mainstream all that in our capacity building activities, training and education, tools and strategies for those practitioners, policy makers and stakeholders, including the general public, in a transformant process from learning , practice to commitment which can make a difference for the future of this blue planet.

Welcome Segment

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