UNIDO Pavilion Side Event

AGENDA

From Sea to Markets: Scaling Seaweed Value Chains for Climate Action

United Nations Global Seaweed Initiative (UNGSI)

A. EVENT DETAILS	
Date and time:	Tuesday, 17 November 2026, 11:15–12:15 (60 minutes)
Venue:	UNIDO Pavilion, COP31, Antalya Expo Center, Türkiye
Organized by:	UNIDO, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Global Seaweed Coalition (GSC), under the umbrella of the United Nations Global Seaweed Initiative (UNGSI)
Format and language:	Moderated roundtable; English
Purpose:	To examine the conditions under which countries can move beyond isolated pilot initiatives towards viable, investable seaweed industries that strengthen coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, climate adaptation and livelihoods: scientific knowledge and genetic resources, biosecurity and environmental safeguards, climate-resilient production, technical assistance, standards and compliance, processing capacity, viable markets, financing and partnerships. The roundtable sets out why these elements have to be addressed together, and what international collaboration through UNGSI and the proposed GEF-9 Global Seaweed Programme can contribute. It follows the UNGSI roundtable at COP30 and the Plan to Accelerate Solutions on the Multiple Benefits of Algae Aquaculture presented to the COP30 Climate Action Agenda.
Intended outcomes:	(1) Raise awareness of the critical interconnections between seaweed, healthy coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, climate adaptation and resilient livelihoods. (2) Emphasize the importance of collaboration, knowledge exchange and partnerships among countries and institutions to foster well-informed, impactful and synergistic action towards sustainable seaweed-sector development. (3) Explore pathways and opportunities for mobilizing critical technical expertise and investment to support the development of a climate-resilient and sustainable seaweed sector for the benefit of people and the environment. A one-page summary of the discussion will be circulated to participants within two weeks after the event.

B. PROGRAMME		
Time	**Item**	**Speakers and content**
11:15–11:17	**Welcome and introduction**	**Ms. Nichola Dyer**, Senior Adviser, Global Seaweed Coalition — Moderator Purpose of the roundtable, the three intended outcomes and the format of the discussion: one question to each speaker, approximately five minutes per intervention.

11:17–11:21	**Opening remarks**	**Mr. Ciyong Zou**, Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director, UNIDO Welcome of the newest UNGSI Member States — Cuba, Portugal and Seychelles. Why a sustainable seaweed sector requires more than expanding cultivation; UNIDO's downstream contribution — processing, value addition, standards and investment — and the proposed GEF-9 Global Seaweed Programme (UNIDO/FAO) as a coordinated response.
11:21–11:28	**Scientific scene-setting presentation**	**Prof. Juliet Brodie**, Natural History Museum, London, UK Seaweed as a biodiversity asset and the gaps in knowledge of its genetic diversity; genetic-resource mapping, gene banks and biosecurity as conditions for sustainable expansion; climate risks to seaweed ecosystems and cultivation; coastal livelihoods, environmental safeguards and viable markets (5–7 minutes).
11:28–12:03	**Moderated discussion**	The moderator puts one question to each speaker, tailored to their institutional role, with approximately five minutes per intervention. Country representatives speak first, followed by international organizations and partners. Speakers: **Mr. Eduardo Sfoglia**, Head Advisor for International Affairs, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Brazil **Representative of the Government of a second UNGSI Member State** — France, Portugal or the Republic of Korea (TBC) **Mr. Martial Bernoux**, Climate Change Team Leader and Senior Natural Resources Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) **Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier**, Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) **Mr. Jason Spensley**, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat, speaking after the scientific and country perspectives
12:03–12:12	**Open floor**	Questions and contributions from Member State delegations, financing institutions, industry, producer organizations and research partners (9 minutes).
12:12–12:15	**Closing**	**Ms. Nichola Dyer**, Moderator Summary of the points raised against the three intended outcomes; next steps under the UNGSI workplan and the proposed GEF-9 Global Seaweed Programme (3 minutes).

C. DISCUSSION FORMAT AND CONTACTS	
Discussion format:	**Tailored questions —** the moderator puts to each speaker one question specific to their institutional expertise, with one possible follow-up, so that the interventions build a single argument. **Thread of the discussion —** country experience in moving from pilot

	initiatives to a viable seaweed sector; sustainable primary production, biosecurity, genetic resources and the technical support producing countries lack; international trade, standards, compliance and market access for seaweed-derived products; private-sector engagement, processing, buyers and the commercial conditions for scale; financing pathways for a climate-resilient and biodiversity-positive sector. **Time discipline —** approximately five minutes per intervention and a close on schedule; another event follows in the Pavilion.
Contacts:	**UNIDO, Division of SME Competitiveness, Quality and Job Creation (TCS/SME)** Mr. Alejandro Rivera Rojas, Chief — a.rivera-rojas@unido.org Mr. Nima Bahramalian, Industrial Development Expert — n.bahramalian@unido.org Mr. Ahmad Lais Osman, Project Administrator — a.osman1@unido.org