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NOTIFICATION

Fourth Oceans Forum
Trade-related aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14:
A shift to a sustainable ocean economy – Facilitating post-pandemic
recovery and resilience

Geneva, Switzerland, 6–8 April 2022, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 3–5 p.m. (CEST)

Background

Over 3 billion people worldwide depend on ocean resources for their livelihoods. However, these livelihoods are under threat, as the ocean and its ability to sustain life are in danger due to human activities, such as pollution and overfishing: every year, an estimated 5–12 million metric tonnes of plastic flows into the ocean, which represents 95 per cent of the Earth's biosphere; and, due to overfishing, the percentage of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels fell from 90 in 1990 to less than 66 in 2017.

The Fourth Oceans Forum will be a unique platform at which to identify ways to change course. It will offer an opportunity to develop approaches to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14, particularly its trade-related targets.

The high-level opening session will address challenges and opportunities for the ocean economy to contribute to a sustainable and resilient post-pandemic recovery. The following topics will be addressed at the Oceans Forum:

- New and emerging ocean economy sectors, such as seaweed production
- Fish subsidies reform
- Blue markets and non-tariff measures
- Social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture
- Maritime supply chains
- Marine litter and plastic pollution

The 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development will be co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal. The Chair of the Fourth Oceans Forum will consolidate the conclusions and recommendations of the forum in a report that will be submitted to the Governments of Kenya and Portugal and to permanent missions in Geneva and New York.

Participation

This meeting is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as representatives from academia and the private sector, may participate as observers.

Please register for this meeting at <https://indico.un.org/event/1000443/>. Early registration is encouraged to allow for timely approval. Due to current pandemic-related measures at the Palais des Nations, delegates not based in Geneva are kindly encouraged to register for remote participation. All communications concerning registration should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org.

Logistics

The meeting will be held with physical participation, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, and remote participation, through a simultaneous interpretation platform in English, French and Spanish. A link to the formal virtual meeting will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one day in advance of the start of the session.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations; therefore, visitors should be dropped off at the entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service grants special clearance.

Further information and contact details

Substantive inquiries should be addressed to Mr. David Vivas Eugui, Legal Officer, email: david.vivaseugui@unctad.org; or Ms. Claudia Contreras, Economic Affairs Officer, email: claudia.contreras@unctad.org.



Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

28 February 2022