



4th Oceans Forum

on trade-related aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 14

6–8 April 2022, Geneva and online (hybrid)
Salle XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Tentative Programme

UNCTAD in cooperation with FAO, UNEP, The Commonwealth, OACPS, CAF, and IOI
and with the support of the Republics of Portugal and Kenya

Version-pdf-28 of 8 April 2022

10 a.m.–12 p.m. (CEST), 6 April 2022

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT, DAY 1

Towards a Blue Deal for post-COVID-19 recovery and resilience

Chair: H.E. Ms. Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, and Chair of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development

Introductory statements by Co-conveners of the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference:

H.E. Mr. João Gomes Cravinho, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal (video message)
H.E. Ms. Raychelle Omamo, SC, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya (video message)

Keynotes: H.E. Ms. Marta Lucía Ramírez, Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia (video message)
H.E. Mr. Alan Ganoo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and International Trade, Mauritius (video message)

Welcome remarks: Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD
Ms. Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General, the Commonwealth (via Zoom video link)
Mr. Dominique Burgeon, Director, FAO Liaison Office to the United Nations in Geneva
Mr. Félix Maonera, Deputy Permanent Observer, Permanent Delegation of the OACPS to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr Christian Asinelli, Corporate Vice President for Strategic Planning, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) (video message)
Dr. Awni Behnam, Honorary President, International Ocean Institute (IOI)

Presentation: **The Blue Connection** (a short documentary film on UNCTAD-DOALOS Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies [OETS] project)

Commentary on the film by: Mr. Vladimir Jares, Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), OLA (video message)

1-2 p.m., 6 April 2022

SIDE EVENT, DAY 1

A SPECIAL EVENT ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IOI

Reflections on the Bridgetown Covenant and UNCTAD15 Outcomes:

The role of knowledge-based institutions in achieving common aims through capacity development

Co-organizers: IOI - UNCTAD

Discussion themes:

- What roles does capacity development in Ocean Governance play in ensuring safe and healthy oceans for the benefit of humankind?
- How can the benefits from targeted capacity development and knowledge transfer be maximized?
- In the last half a decade, how do IOI's commitments and achievements support UNCTAD's mandates, specifically, the recently adopted Bridgetown Covenant and UNCTAD 15 outcomes on sustainable ocean economy?
- How do IOI programmes and projects contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, particularly SDG 14?

Welcome remarks: Mr. Awni Behnam, Honorary President, IOI

Panel Moderator: Ms. Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director, IOI

Keynote: Ms. Dona Bertarelli, Special Adviser for the Blue Economy, UNCTAD (video message)

Panellists:
H.E. Chad Blackman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva and Chair of the Group of 77 for 2022 (Geneva Chapter)
Mr. Peter Leder, Member, IOI Governing Board
Mr. Luis Vayas Valdivieso, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador
Ms. Miho Shirotori, Acting Director, Division of International Trade & Commodities, UNCTAD

Interactive discussion

Related document: IOI side event [concept note](#)

Webex link: <https://ungeneva-vc.webex.com/ungeneva-vc/j.php?MTID=m4374128992b357933d81edddeda16587>
Meeting number (access code): 2743 725 3258
password: FMy8wYePf38

3–5 p.m. (CEST), 6 April 2022

SESSION 1, DAY 1

The seaweed sector as a lever for sustainable economic recovery

Co-organizers: UNCTAD-UNEP-CAF

Discussion themes:

- What are current production and market trends in the emerging seaweed market?
- How can developing countries assess their potential for seaweed farming, acquire the know-how and technology?
- How can developing countries identify trade opportunities and finance initial investments in the seaweed industry as an economical alternative?
- What are the key entry factors and barriers in developing seaweed value chains in developing countries?
- What are United Nations, other international organizations, and private sector's role in seizing seaweed opportunities in developing countries (e.g., technical assistance, certifications, financing)?

Introduction of background note:

Mr. Lahsen Ababouch, Senior Expert, UNCTAD-FAO

Ms. Leticia Carvalho, Head, Marine and Freshwater Branch, UNEP (via Zoom video link)

Keynote:

Ms. Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

Panelists:

Ms. Nichola J. Dyer, Senior Advisor, International Economic Development

Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement, Safe Seaweed Coalition (via Zoom video link)

Mr. René Gómez-García, Senior Executive/Head, Green Business Unit, CAF

Mr. Paolo Bifani, Former Senior Staff Member, UNEP

Mr. Carlos M. Duarte, Marine Ecologist, Seagrass and blue carbon expert, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (via Zoom video link)

Ms. Helena Abreu, Managing Director, ALGApplus, Portugal (via Zoom video link)

Interactive discussion

5:30 p.m. (CEST), 6 April 2022

Cocktail hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat on the occasion of the
4th Oceans Forum

1 Floor, Area 17 close to Serpent Bar, Palais de Nations

10 a.m.–12 p.m. (CEST), 7 April 2022

SESSION 2, DAY 2

Transparency and implementation mechanisms to support fish subsidies and non-tariff measures (NTMs) reform

Co-organizers: UNCTAD-FAO

Discussion themes:

- What are the areas in which countries will require technical assistance and capacity building to devise and undertake fisheries subsidies and NTMs reform?
- What regulatory, data systems and governance priorities should be considered?
- Which domestic groups should be fully involved and can contribute to the enforcement effort? Which policies can governments introduce to facilitate compliance?
- What is the role of the Oceans Forum partners and the 2nd UN Oceans Conference in supporting this process?

Introduction of background note (transparency in fish subsidies and NTMs):

Mr. David Vivas Eugui, Legal Officer, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD
Mr. Marcio Castro De Souza, Senior Fisheries Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO
(via Zoom video link)

Keynote: **H.E. Mr. Santiago Wills**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Chair of the Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations at the WTO

Panelists: **H.E. Mr. Paubert T. Mahatante**, Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Madagascar (via Zoom link)
Mr. Vueti May, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva
Ms. Claire Delpuech, Fisheries Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Mr. Philippe Michaud, National Lead, Fisheries Transparency Initiative and Consultant to the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy of the Seychelles, (via Zoom link)
Mr. Francisco Blaha, Fisheries Specialist and former commercial fisher, New Zealand (via Zoom link)

Interactive discussion

1-2 P.M. (CEST), 7 APRIL 2022

SIDE EVENT, DAY 2

Sustainably harnessing the potential of marine bioprospecting for socioeconomic development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Organizer: UNCTAD

Discussion themes:

- What are SIDS' explicit and latent comparative advantages and how bioprospecting can enhance the process of sustainable development?
- How can SIDS diversify the use of ocean and coastal resources through bioprospecting of marine genetic resources and beyond, in a sustainable manner?
- What are the legal and institutional frameworks necessary to harness the potential of marine bioprospecting?
- What is the role of development partnership in supporting SIDS?
- Within that, what should be UNCTAD's role in promoting the sustainable harnessing of the potential of marine bioprospecting for socioeconomic development in SIDS?

Panel moderator: Mr. David Jose Vivas Eugui, Legal Officer, UNCTAD

Presenters: Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Recovery Specialist, UNDP
Ms. Johanna Silvander, Programme Management Officer, UNCTAD

Panelists: Ms. Viviana Muñoz-Tellez, Coordinator, Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity Programme, South Centre
Mr. Paolo Bifani, former Senior Staff UNEP and Biodiversity expert
H.E. Mr. Alan Deidun, Associate Professor, University of Malta, Malta Oceans Ambassador and Member of IOI

Interactive discussion

Webex link: <https://ungeneva-vc.webex.com/ungeneva-vc/j.php?MTID=mb565e01a7d70a2a25c5872b0d8cf19fe>
Meeting number (access code): 2744 015 2802
Meeting password: WfenYpmV844

3–5 p.m. (CEST), 7 April 2022

SESSION 3, DAY 2

Social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture value chain

Co-organizers: **FAO-UNCTAD-OACPS**

Discussion themes:

- In view of COVID-19 implications, what are the main challenges that the sector faces to ensure good labour and social practices?
- How could value chain stakeholders implement decent working conditions?
- How can the sector implement relevant existing conventions, guidelines and other international instruments into its practices and activities to ensure better human/labour rights protection and working conditions?
- How could the industry and governments work together to create positive incentives to apply sound and best social practices?

Introduction of background note (social aspects of the fisheries value chains):

Mr. Lahsen Ababouch, Senior Expert, UNCTAD-FAO

Keynote: **Mr. Audun Lem**, Deputy-Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO (via Zoom video link)

Panelists:

Ms. Josefina Bunge, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the International Organizations in Geneva

Ms. Christine Bader, Specialist, Transport and Maritime Sectors Unit, ILO

Ms. Monica Maldonado, Executive Director, the Ecuadorian Chamber of Industries and Processors Tuna (CEIPA)

Mr. Gaoussou Gueye, President, African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Professional Organizations (CAOPA) (via Zoom video link)

Mr. Sebastian Mathew, Executive Director, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) (via Zoom video link)

Mr. John Keeler, CEO, Blue Foods (via Zoom video link)

Interactive discussion

10 a.m.–12 p.m. (CEST), 8 April 2022

SESSION 4, DAY 3

Sustainable and resilient maritime supply chains

Co-organizers: UNCTAD-IOI

Discussion themes:

- What are the main causes and impacts of the ongoing maritime supply chain crisis?
- What lessons can be learned for future challenges, including resilience building and preparing for the decarbonization of maritime transport?
- How can UNCTAD help developing countries to ensure that port and shipping services of the future are cost effective and accessible, especially for the most vulnerable economies such as SIDS and LDCS?
- How can effective adaptation action for critical transport infrastructure be better supported and how can access to affordable infrastructure finance be accelerated?

Introduction: Mr. Jan Hoffmann, Head, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Keynote: Mr. Kasper Sogaard, Global Maritime Forum

Panelists:

H.E. Mr. Alfredo Suescum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Panama to the WTO

H.E. Mr. Colin Murdoch, Ambassador and Permanent Observer, Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Ms. Mwanalu Issa, Director, Trade Facilitation and Policy Harmonisation, Intergovernmental Standing Committee on Shipping (ISCS), Kenya

Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Director, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Mr. Awni Behnam, Honorary President, the International Ocean Institute (IOI)

3–4.30 p.m. (CEST), 8 April 2022

SESSION 5, DAY 3

Addressing trade-related aspects of marine litter and plastic pollution

Co-organizers: UNCTAD-Commonwealth Secretariat

Discussion themes:

- What are trade rules for single use plastics and their material substitutes?
- How can developing countries identify material substitutes which are competitive and deliver environmental gains?
- How could a United Nations treaty on plastics pollution provide an effective multilateral framework?
- How could trade policy and rules complement these efforts?
- How could technology transfer for waste management be facilitated to developing countries?

Introduction of background note (addressing plastic litter and other wastes in the ocean):

Mr. David Vivas Eugui, Legal Officer, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD
Mr. Henrique Pacini, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

Keynote: **H.E. Mr. Simon Manley**, CMG, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and Chair of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment

Panelists:
H.E. Mr. José Valencia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the WTO in Geneva
H.E. Mr. Dagfinn Sørli, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Norway to the WTO
Mr. Nicholas Hardman-Mountford, Head, Oceans and Natural Resources Division, the Commonwealth Secretariat
Ms. Brenda Koekkoek, Programme Manager, UNEP
Ms. Diana Barrowclough, Senior Economist, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD
Ms. Kimberley Botwright, Head, Sustainable Trade, World Economic Forum

4.30–5 p.m. (CEST), 8 April 2022

PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIR, DAY 3

Presentation of preliminary list of recommendations and action points
for the United Nations Oceans Conference

Chair:

H.E. Ms. Usha Dwarka-Canabady, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Open debate and comments

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