

FINAL (29 June 2022)



## PROGRAMME & CONCEPT NOTE

### Background

On the margins of the Second UN Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (the "**2022 UN Ocean Conference**"), the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, is partnering with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to host a side event (Event ID: IBZW296) titled "**Trade facilitation for a sustainable blue economy**".

The event will be held on **29 June 2022** from **13:00 to 14:15 hrs** in **Side Event Room 2** (Blue Zone) of the **Altice Arena** (main conference venue) in Lisbon, Portugal.

This side event is closely linked to the overall theme of the Conference: "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of SDG Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions" and, in particular, aligns with the focus of two of the interactive dialogues of the Conference, namely on "*Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for small island developing States and least developed countries*" and "*Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets*".

The event aims to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to address the challenges and opportunities and to put forward solutions for the implementation of the trade-related targets of SDG 14, drawing on national, regional, and global experiences, perspectives, and best practices.

Guiding questions for the panel discussion include:

1. What are key trade and sustainability challenges facing coastal economies, small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) as they develop their blue economies and strategies?
2. What role can international trade play to harness the opportunities and support the development of the blue economy in SIDS and LDCs?
3. How can the new WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and the Trade Facilitation Agreement support sustainable fish trade and the blue economy? How can existing and new trade and environment initiatives at the WTO and other fora contribute?
4. How can LDCs and SIDS' trade and development partners/donors facilitate trade in a sustainable blue economy?
5. How can the private sector and other concerned stakeholders contribute to trade development for a sustainable blue economy? What role can sustainability standards and other market or regulatory mechanisms play?

## Programme

The final programme and speakers for the event:

### **1:00 pm – 1:05 pm Introductory Remarks**

- Mr. Aik Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, WTO (Moderator)

### **1:05 pm – 1:45 pm Panel Discussion**

#### **"Trade facilitation for a sustainable blue economy"**

- **H.E. Mr. Santiago Wills**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the WTO in Geneva and Chairman of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules
- **Mr. Audun Lem**, Deputy Director, Fisheries & Aquaculture Division, FAO
- **Ms. Salome Taufa**, Programme Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- **Ms. Barkha Mossae**, Blue Economy Advisor, African Union Commission
- **Mr. David Vivas-Eugui**, Legal Officer, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD
- **Mr. Tom Pickerell**, World Economic Forum / Global Tuna Alliance
- **Ms. Ieva Baršauskaitė**, Senior Policy Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development

### **1:45 pm – 2:15 pm Questions and Answers**

- Questions and Answers
- Wrap-up and Concluding remarks by the moderator

## Participation/Target audience

The event will be held at the main conference venue (**Side Event Room 2, Altice Arena**) and is open to all registered stakeholders participating at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference.

Participants are advised to register for the 2022 Ocean Conference as soon as possible and well within the registration deadlines (click [here](#) to register) so that they have the requisite badges/accreditation to attend this in-person event.

For any further information on this event contact: Mr. Sajal Mathur, Counsellor, Trade and Environment Division, WTO at: [sajal.mathur@wto.org](mailto:sajal.mathur@wto.org).

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