

UN Global Seaweed Initiative (UNGSI) – First Annual Meeting

Advancing sustainable seaweed value chains for climate, biodiversity and trade

29-30 June 2026

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. (CEST)

Building H, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Tentative Programme

29–30 June 2026, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CEST)
Room 207-209, H building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Draft version – 26 June 2026

Monday, 29 June (Public Event)

Welcome session

10:00-10:40 a.m. **Introduction to the UNGSI and the agenda**

Co-Chairs **Ms. Elsa Tudal**, Project Director for European and International affairs, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGAMPA), French Ministry for Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forestry, Fisheries and Sea

Ms. Felaniaina Lantovololona, Director of Aquaculture, Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy (Madagascar)

Status of the Seaweed sector and UNGSI role

High level panellists **H.E. Mr. Édipo Araújo**, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Brazil (video message)

H.E. Ms. Emelia Arthur, Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ghana (Online)

Mr. Leonardo A.A. Teguh Sambodo, Deputy Minister of Food, Natural Resources, and Environment, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) Indonesia will be represented by **Mr. Mohammad Rahmat**

Mulianda, Director of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, BAPPENAS

Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development (UNCTAD) (Video message)

Mr. Vincent Doumeizel, Senior Advisor on Ocean & Food, UNGC and co-founder, Global Seaweed Coalition

Q&A

Description This session will introduce the UNGSI objectives and functioning, status of the global seaweed sector, its challenges and opportunities for sustainable development, and how the UNGSI responds to this potential through key priorities, achievements so far, and action agenda.

10:40-11:00 a.m. **Coffee Break**

11:00-12:00 p.m. **SESSION 1: Integrating seaweed/algae into national planning**

Panellists **Mr. Eduardo Sfogli**a, Head Advisor for International Affairs, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Fisheries Department, Brazil (Video)
Mr. Maris Stulgis, European Commission, DG Mare, Environmental credits for seaweed aquaculture and the EU Algae Declaration (Online)
Mr. Brian Tsuyoshi Takeda, Japan Blue Economy Association, J-Blue credits
Ms. Michele Quesada da Silva, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Global Coordinator, UNESCO-IOC (Online)
Mr. Juan Manuel Calderón, Public Policy Director, Environmental Defense Fund – Mexico (Online)

Q&A

Description This session will present the UNGSI Plan to accelerate the multiple benefits of algae aquaculture, adopted at COP30 in Belem, Brazil, in 2025, and discuss how seaweed can be integrated into national climate and biodiversity strategies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) & Sustainable Ocean Planning.

12:00-1:00 p.m. **SESSION 2: Production and commercialization constraints of seaweed/algae and their by-products**

Panellists **Mr. Ir. Nono Hartanto M.Aq**, Director of Seaweed, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia (Online)
Mr. Alessandro Lovatelli, Aquaculture Officer, FAO, Production and commercialization constraints for seaweed
Ms. Mélanie Cueff, Scientific Officer, Global Seaweed Coalition and Research Engineer, CNRS, France.
Mr. Harrison Charo Karisa, Senior Fisheries Specialist (Aquaculture), World Bank Group.



Mr. Sebastian Jan, Président of Pro Algues Madagascar (Association des Producteurs et Opérateurs de la Filière Algues de Madagascar).

Q&A

Description This session will examine key bottlenecks in seaweed production and commercialization, including economic, social, technical, environmental and capacity-related constraints.

3:00-4:00 p.m. **SESSION 3: Trade (TBT+SPS), regulations and standards for seaweed/algae**

Panelists **Mr. David Vivas Eugui**, Chief a.i. Ocean & Circular Economy Unit, UNCTAD. Seaweed for Development trade and regulatory mapping
Mr. Jose Avila-Peltroche, Consultant, FAO, and Postdoctoral Fellow, Carnegie Science. Seaweed aquaculture national laws and policies (Online)
Mr. Raymond Tavares, Unit Chief, TCS/SME/MDJ, Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development (TCS), Division of SME Competitiveness, Quality and Job Creation (TCS/SME), UNIDO
Mr. André Luiz Bispo Oliveira, Coordinator for Analytics and International Cooperation, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Brazil. Outcomes of Session 37 of Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFP37)
Ms. Esther Garrido Gamarro, Fishery Officer, Food Safety and Quality – Aquatic Products, FAO, preparations and algae agenda items for the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49) (Online)
Mr. Humphrey Atkinson, Natural Polymers Group, Product Manager, NOTPLA, Ocean & SMEP Programme-supported enterprise

Q&A

Description This session will address regulatory fragmentation, trade barriers, and the need for converging standard setting across seaweed value chains. It will explore implications for both food & non-food applications & identify opportunities to facilitate market access, particularly for developing countries.

4:00-5:30 p.m. **SESSION 4: Financing the seaweed transition: public, private and blended solutions**



Panellists

Ms. Yas Farjad, Officer for European, International, and Economic Development Affairs of Aquaculture Sectors, French Ministry for Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forestry, Fisheries and Sea

Mr. Antoine Rougier, Agence Française de Développement, Bilateral Financing

Mr. Nima Bahramalian, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO, exploring funding options: Seaweed for Adaptation (S4A)

Mr. Henrique Pacini, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD, on the Sustainable Materials GEF funding proposal (Online)

Mr. Michael White, Partner, Planet Ocean Capital

Mr. Yabanex Batista, Deputy Director - UN Global Team, Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) - United Nations Capital Development Fund

Q&A

Description

This session will explore blue financing solutions to scale seaweed value chains, including public investment, private capital mobilization, and blended finance mechanisms. It will also address risk mitigation and investment readiness in emerging markets.

5:30-6:00 p.m.

Summary from the Chairs - Conclusions and transition to tomorrow's session

Tuesday, 30 June (Internal Meeting – UNGSI Members and Steering Group, by invitation only)

9:00-10:00 a.m.

SESSION 5: Strengthening UNGSI governance

Description

This session will take stock of the governance structure of UNGSI moving forward, including the clarification of the Secretariat's role, Membership and observer, membership and observers composition, communication modalities and policies, and engagement by partner agencies and other interested stakeholders.

10:00-11:00 a.m.

SESSION 6: Implementation actions: Status on priorities

Description

Participants will review progress across the four priority pillars (policy integration, production, trade, finance), identify gaps, and agree on priority actions for the next phase of implementation.

11:00-11:20 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:20-1:00 p.m.

SESSION 7: Events (2026–2027)

Description

This session will coordinate UNGSI engagement in upcoming international processes, including:

-37th COFI (speaker corner) -> request from member states, 7-11 September 2026



- CBD COP, 19-30 October, Armenia
- UNFCCC COP31 -> Brazil, GSC, UNCTAD, FAO present in person, follow-up on PAS progression, launch of the seaweed breakthrough, Türkiye, 09-20 November
- BBNJ COP: France, UNCTAD (ocean economic aspects of the high seas, linkages with BBNJ), January 2027
- COFI Sub-committee. Aquaculture: Indonesia
- EU Algae Summit, 2027
- 6th UN Ocean Forum 2027-28 (UNCTAD led)

3:00-5:00 p.m. **SESSION 8: Working session fundraising proposals: status of concept note**

- Description
- Review of ongoing and proposed funding initiatives, including:
 - Seaweed for Adaptation (GEF / Adaptation Fund) led by UNIDO and FAO and implemented by UNCTAD and GSC
 - Sustainable Materials Programme (non-food applications)
 - Any other proposal

5:00-5:30 p.m. **Review and finalization of draft communique / press release**

5.30-6.00 p.m. **Closing: next steps, next annual UNGSI and agreed action points**

