

The International Ocean Institute (IOI)

Reflections on the Bridgetown Covenant and UNCTAD 15 outcomes
~ *The role of knowledge-based institutions in*
achieving common aims through capacity development ~
A special event of the 50th anniversary of the IOI

6th April 2022

13:00 to 14:00hrs

Online and in Room XXVI - Building E, Palais des Nations Geneva, Switzerland



Organised by the
International Ocean Institute (IOI)
During the



06 - 08 April 2022
Palais des Nations, Room XXVI
Online and in
Geneva, Switzerland

CONCEPT NOTE

Building on the UNCTAD14 conference emphasis on the need to move from decision to action, UNCTAD15 focused on reducing inequality and vulnerability by ensuring trade works for all and that development remains high on the global agenda.

Under the UNCTAD15 theme *“From inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all”* and guided by Agenda 2030 and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Member States of UNCTAD endorsed the Bridgetown Covenant and mandated UNCTAD to continue its work through three pillars - research and analysis, consensus building and technical cooperation - to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

The Bridgetown Covenant highlights that preservation of the planet needs to take place both on land and sea, that the *“world needs a healthy ocean to preserve and save the planet”* and calls for a greater understanding and clearer definition of the oceans economy in line with the SDGs. It also calls for UNCTAD to *“Continue to support, through policy dialogue and cooperation mechanisms, international and regional transport networks, ensuring their sustainability and resilience, and promote the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources;”*. In point 77, it notes that *“The endeavour to protect and conserve the planet must be inclusive and efficient, as well as nurturing and cultivating a knowledgeable, environmentally conscious and digitally fluent generation”* while other sections mandate UNCTAD to work closely with other stakeholders to *“Formulate and promote policies fostering productive capacities and structural transformation in developing countries”*.

Capacity development, training, and education in Ocean Governance plays a central role in ensuring safe and healthy oceans for the benefit of humankind. Additionally, obligations towards achieving the SDGs, notably SDG14 and its targets, and other interdependent SDGs, place a burden of responsibility on decision-makers and practitioners, stakeholders and citizens, which may benefit from targeted capacity development and knowledge transfer at all levels.

Established in 1972, the IOI is an independent, non-governmental non-profit organisation conducting training and capacity development in Ocean matters worldwide. Over these five decades, the IOI has excelled in the training of young professionals in Ocean Governance with more than 2000 alumni from more than 110 countries having successfully graduated from its global training programmes.

As one of the projects to mark the 50th anniversary of the IOI, the IOI Ocean Academy expands the Institute's commitment in favour of the Ocean and ocean communities, offering Ocean Literacy programmes to entry-level participants and spreading knowledge on the sustainable and sound governance of our One Ocean, as a tangible and measurable action towards achieving Agenda 2030 and the interdependent SDGs and their targets.

The programmes and achievements of the IOI's pentadecadal Ocean commitment invite reflection on their synergies with the Bridgetown Covenant and UNCTAD 15 outcomes and may serve to highlight the role of civil society stakeholders in achieving common aims towards Agenda 2030 and beyond.

During this event, panellists will advance examples of such outreach by the IOI to assist SIDS, developing countries and countries in transition towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, through developing capacity globally.