



Ad hoc expert meeting on trade, climate & sustainable development

A deep dive into ocean-related measures in SIDS's NDCs under the Paris Agreement

31 January 2025

David Vivas Eugui, Chief of Section a.i., TEDB, DITC

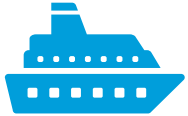
Jan Yves Remy, Director of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services, UWI

Federico Manto, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, TSCE, DITC

➤ Why to analyze ocean measures in SIDS NDCs?



The ocean is 70% of the Biosphere. It generates 50% of the oxygen, absorbs 25% of all CO2 emissions & captures 90% of the excess heat generated by these emissions



More than 80 percent of goods are transported by sea



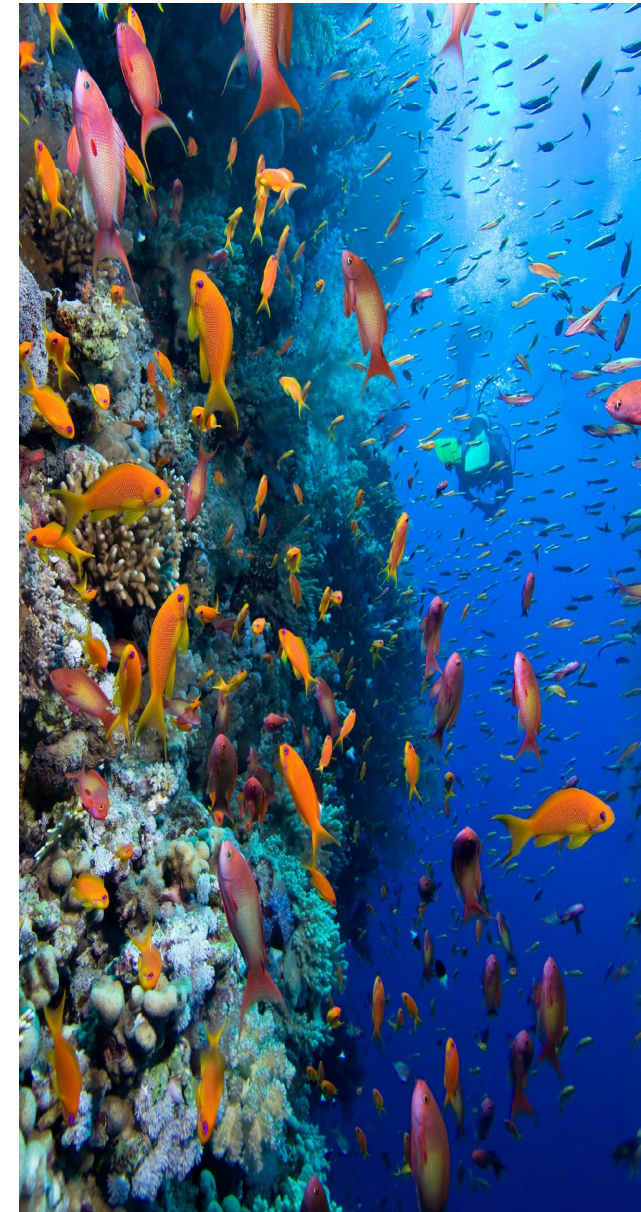
SIDS are disproportionately impacted by the consequences of climate change



SIDS have self-identified as “large ocean States” to emphasize their vast EEZs



SIDS exports of ocean-based goods & services reached \$160 in 2022 (UNCTAD Stats, 2024)

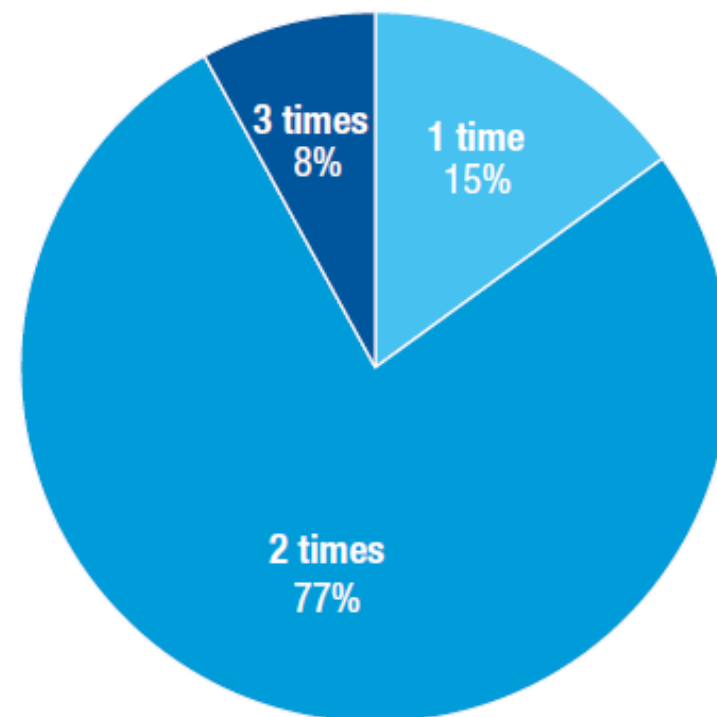




Key message 1:

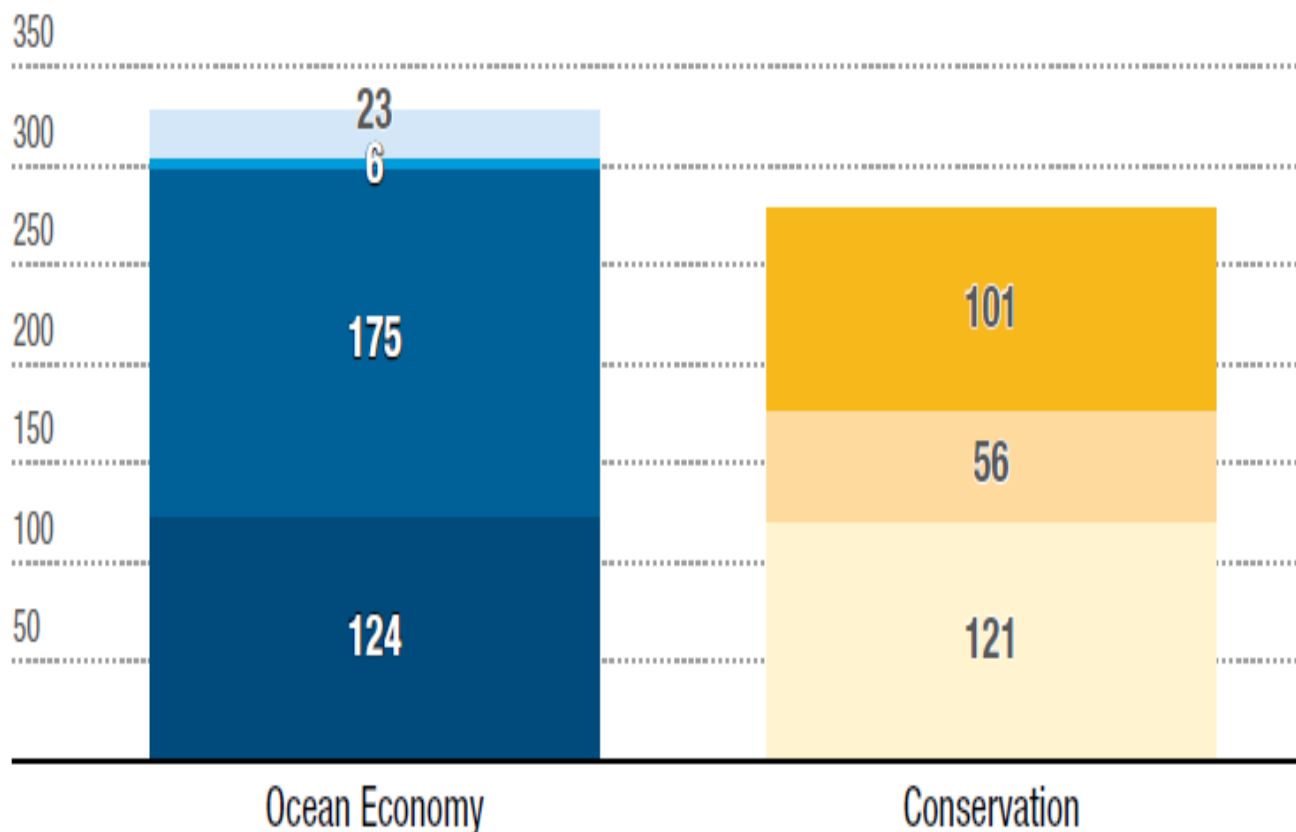
The majority SIDS have submitted NDCs twice since 2016 showing a significant effort among the countries that less contribute to global CO2 emissions

1 time 2 times 3 times



Source: UNCTAD's analysis (2024) based on UNFCCC's NDC Registry.

■ Ecosystem Protection, Expansion and Restoration (carbon sinks)
 ■ Marine environmental assessment, data gathering, monitoring & surveillance
 ■ Area-based management
 ■ Cross-cutting
 ■ Energy
 ■ Services
 ■ Goods



Source: UNCTAD's analysis (2024) based on UNFCCC's NDC Registry.

➤ Key message 2:

606 ocean measures were found in SIDS' NDCs.

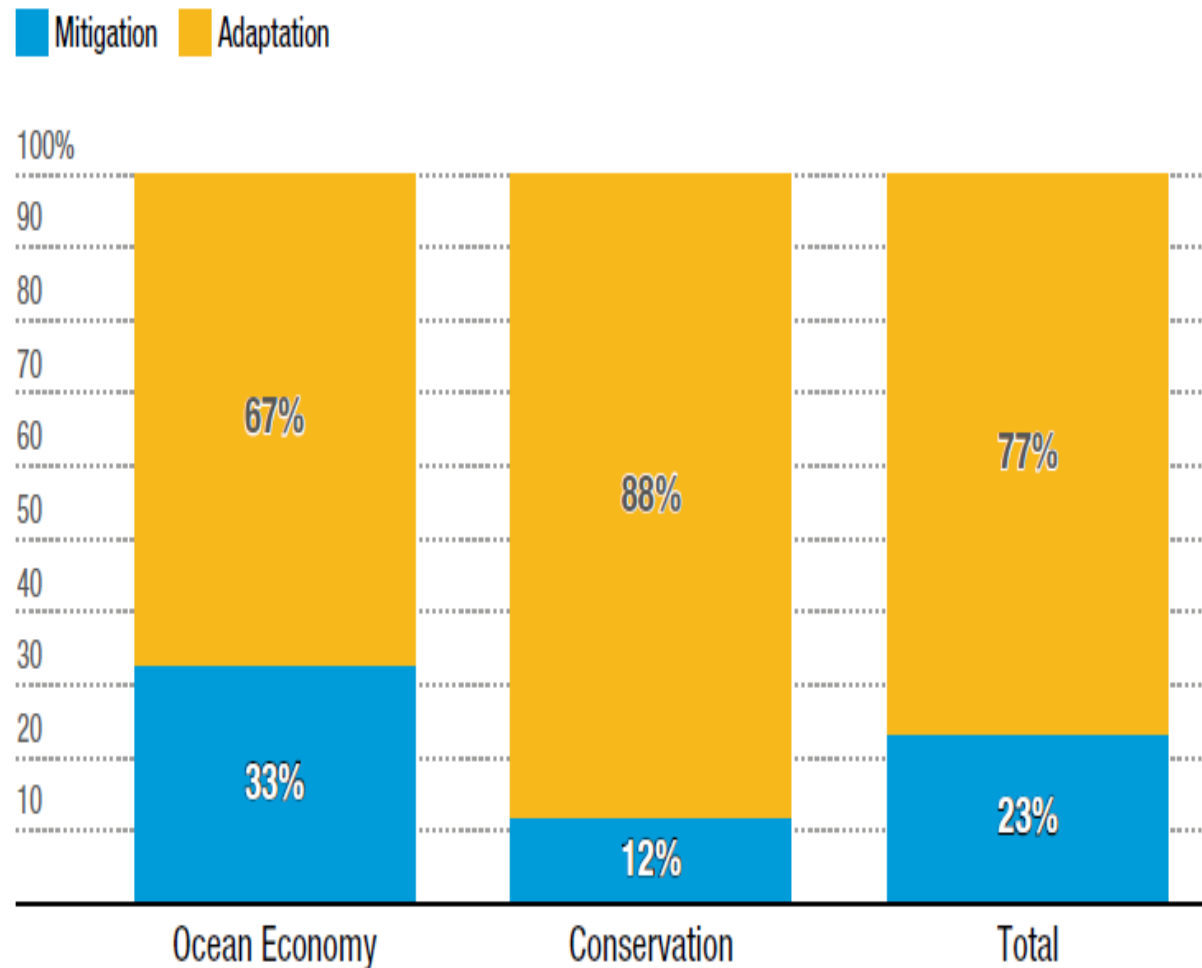
Ocean economy & ocean conservation measures are almost equal in number





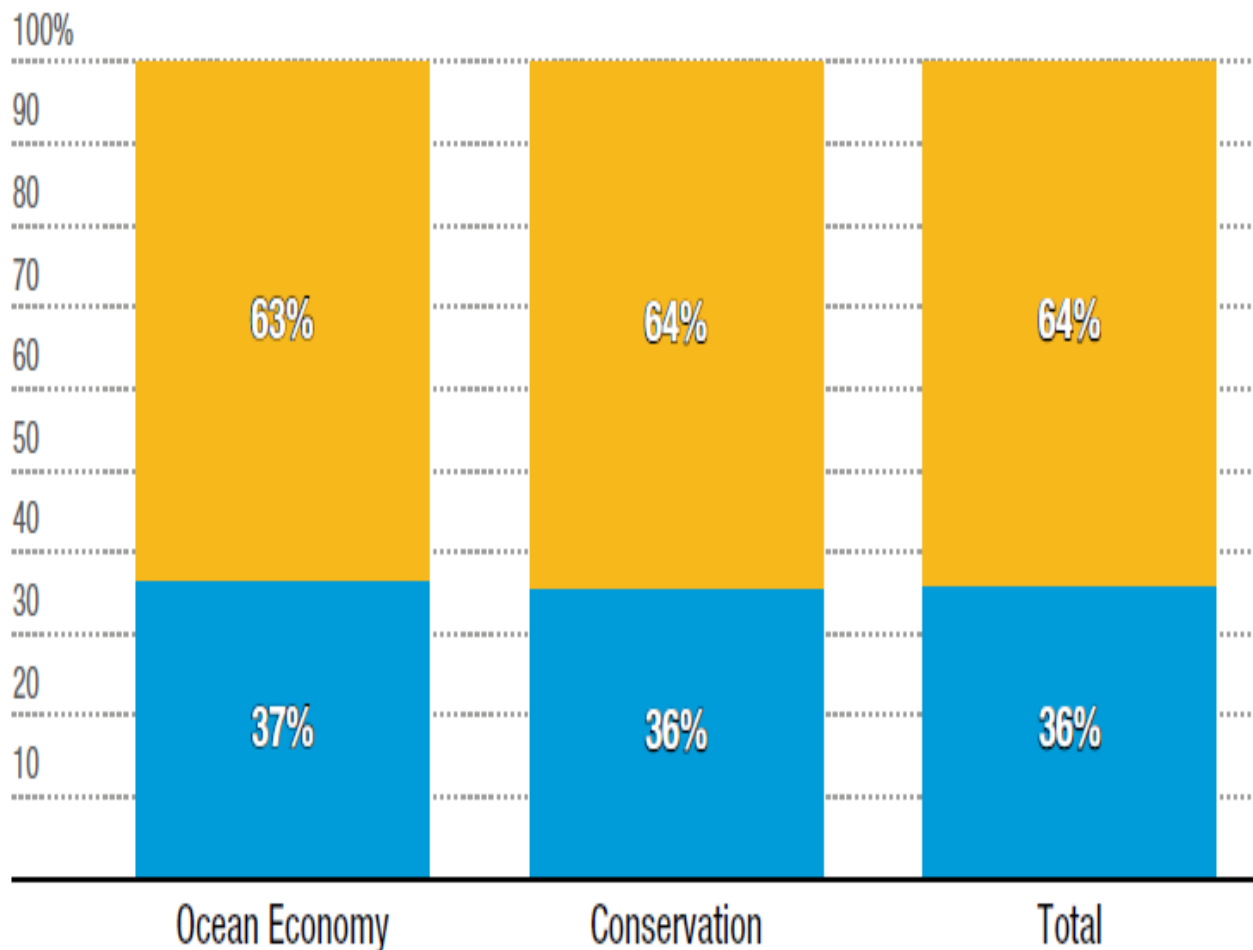
Key message 3:

Adaptation measures represent the majority among ocean economy & ocean conservation measures



Source: UNCTAD's analysis (2024) based on UNFCCC's NDC Registry.

Unconditional Conditional



Source: UNCTAD's analysis (2024) based on UNFCCC's NDC Registry.

➤ Key message 4:

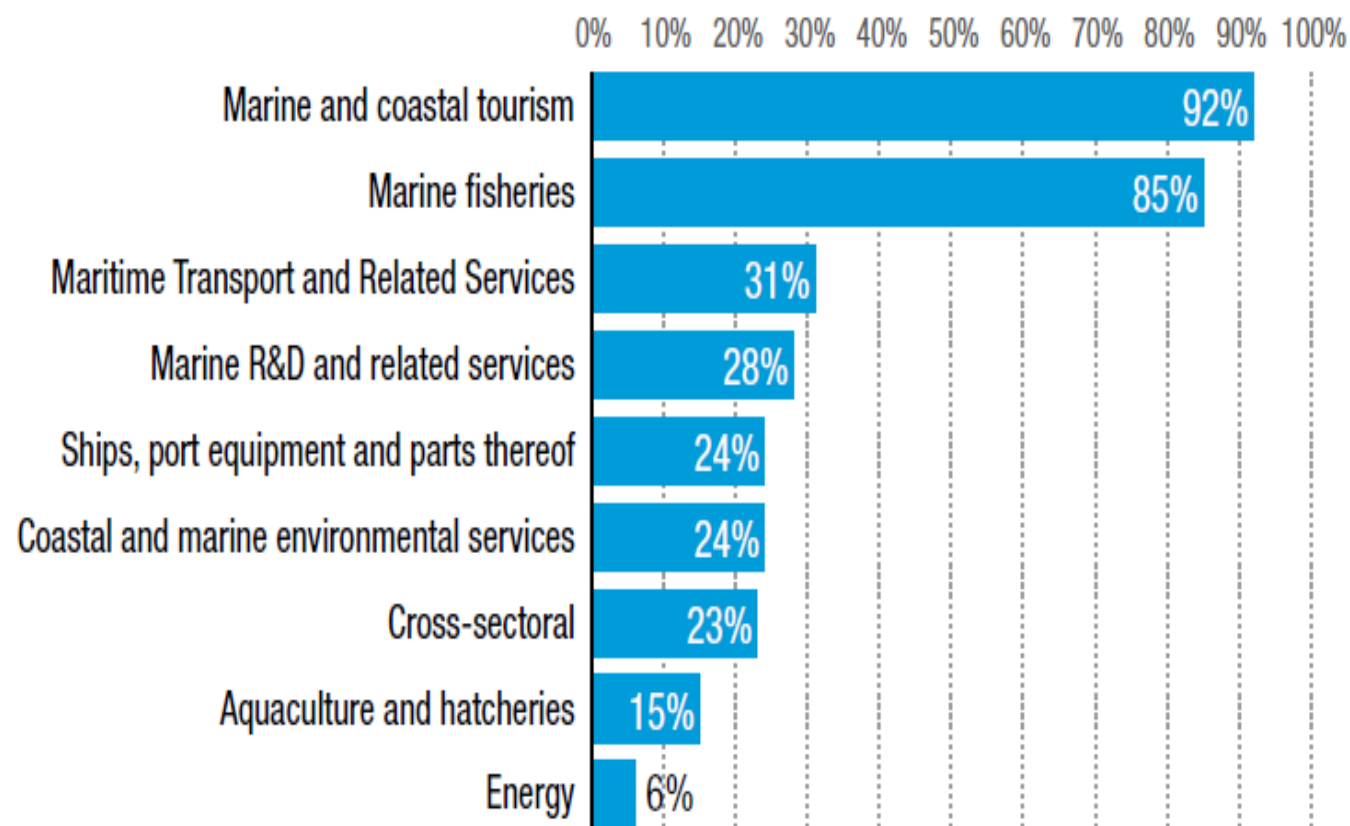
Most of the ocean measures in the SIDS's NDCs are conditional on external support



Key message 5:

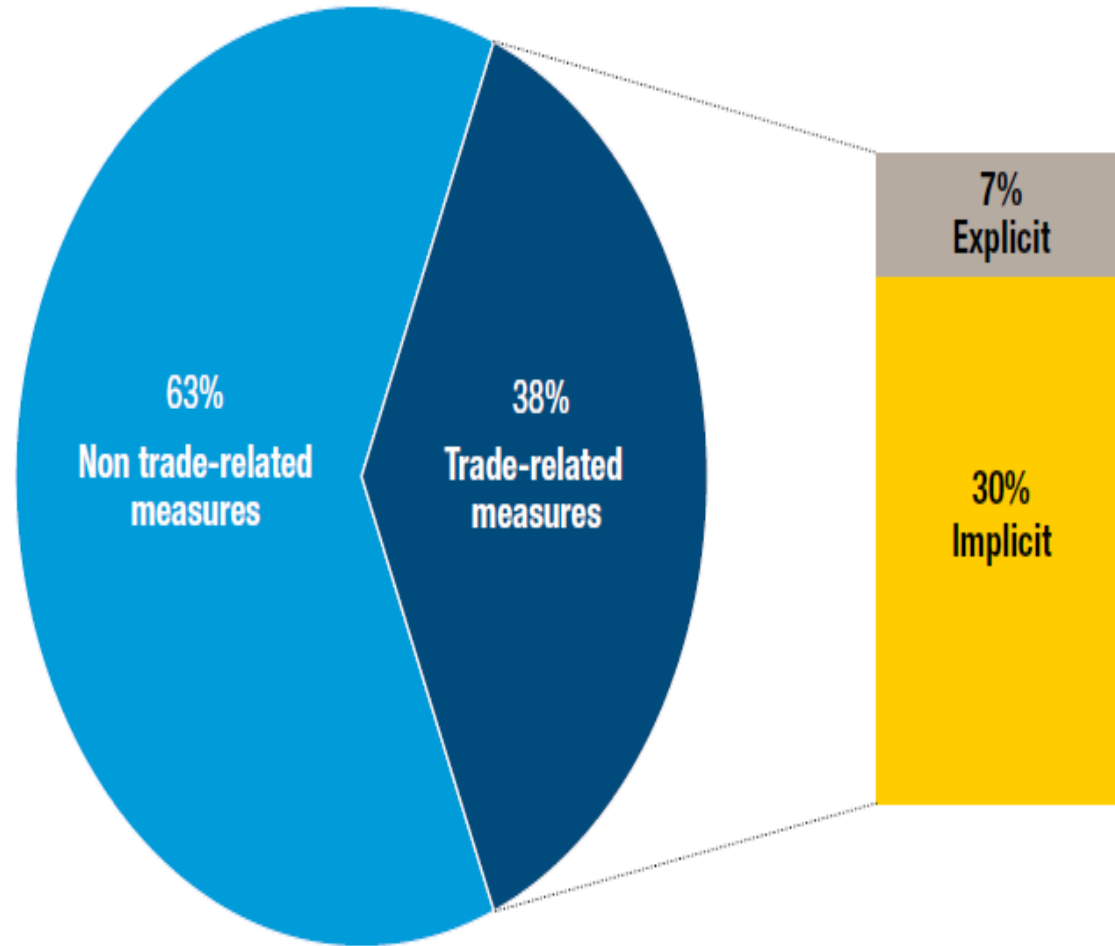
Marine & coastal tourism & marine fisheries are the most addressed ocean economy sub-sectors in SIDS' NDCs

Sustainable use measures



Notes: For the definition of each subsector see Annex II.

Source: UNCTAD's analysis (2024) based on UNFCCC's NDC Registry.



Source: UNCTAD's analysis (2024) based on UNFCCC's NDC Registry.

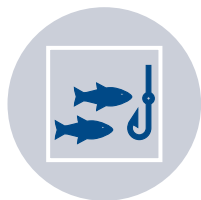


Key message 6:

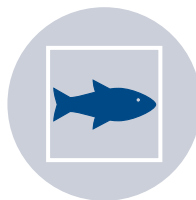
Most ocean economy measures in the nationally determined contributions of small island developing States are not trade-related



Some examples of ocean economic measures in SIDS' NDCs (2016-2024)



Strengthen infrastructure, equipment & sustainable techniques for fisheries



Expand of the aquaculture sector for the diversification of food production



Improve facilities and efficiency for expediting cargo handling



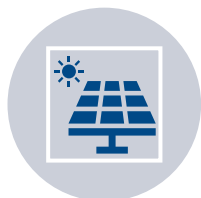
Assess hydrogen-based vessels, development & alternative fuels



Improve desalinization efforts, water management & sanitation to respond to sea level rise & reduce pollution



Research on blue economy product development, diversification and technological advancement



Developing solar floating, offshore, and integrated PV systems through investment in R&D and demonstration

➤ The way forward

- There is **urgency** in transforming ocean economic measures in NDCs into more **homogeneous, measurable, & enforceable policies**, subject to global monitoring under the next phase of NDCs submission under the Paris Agreement
 - Legally binding or not (e.g. Full commitment, best endeavor, pledge, etc.)
 - Bound vs. unbound (modifiable or not)
 - Time frame / Estimated costs / Responsible entities
- **Trade could be further leveraged in ocean economy measures and introduced as an enabling and implementing tool in sustainable use & conservation efforts**
- **UNCTAD's Sustainable Ocean-based Economies Classification and ocean dataset can be valuable tools for providing a greater understanding of the trade value of the ocean economy**
- The **conditional nature** of many commitments highlights the necessity for the international community to **increase support to SIDS**



Thank you

