

5th United Nations Ocean Forum

Costa Rica and France
Recommendations to UNOC3

By H.E. Christian Guillermet
Fernández, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Costa Rica to the United Nations

29 April 2025
10:00-13:00



OVERVIEW



Event

- Co-chaired by **France and Costa Rica**
- Based on UNCTAD-FAO background information
- 1 high-level segment, 5 thematic sessions & 8 side-events
- 1 Expo on marine-based products and services
- 70 speakers
- 500+ participants over 3 days (3-5 March)

Main outcome

- 15 recommendations by co-chairs for UNOC3 and UNCTAD16

Ocean Forum
webpage with

- Full list of recommendations
- Background note





CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

From Geneva to Nice: A Road Map for Sustainable Ocean Economies



- Foster sustainable ocean economies by enhancing national capacities to **collect and access quality data and indicators on trade in ocean goods and services**
- **Enhance global ocean governance** by calling to urgently ratify the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement (FSA)
- **Accelerate support for early warning systems and operationalize ocean carbon data collection efforts**, under the leadership of the WMO and in collaboration with UN agencies



CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

From Geneva to Nice: A Road Map for Sustainable Ocean Economies



- **Measure GHG and other polluting emissions from ocean economy sectors** by improving data generation, collection and sharing and expanding existing databases
- **Support developing countries, in leveraging trade, investment and novel technologies and know-how for climate adaptation and mitigation**, including responses to sea level rise, particularly for SIDS and LDCs
- **Build the sustainability and the resilience of maritime transport, including shipping, port infrastructure and operations, and logistics** in the face of disruptions to ensure smooth trade flows across supply chains and reliable access to ocean economy activities





CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

From Geneva to Nice: A Road Map for Sustainable Ocean Economies



- **Strengthen South-South trade in fisheries, aquaculture**, and other ocean goods by considering the launch of a new round of negotiations under the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries
- **Enhance market access opportunities and address non-tariff barriers for fisheries and aquaculture products** by conducting surveys and qualitative assessments.
- **Enhance sectoral cooperation to improve the transparency and environmental and social dimensions of fisheries** by sharing best practices and country experiences in mitigation and adaptation strategies for fisheries and aquaculture



CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

From Geneva to Nice: A Road Map for Sustainable Ocean Economies



- **Apply robust science-based sustainability criteria**, including adherence to the ABS principle under the Nagoya Protocol and the BBNJ Agreement, **enabling environmental and social entrepreneurs** to expand their offerings, and fostering trade, investment, and innovation in marine-based sectors
- **Address trade and growth barriers from land to sea for innovative marine-based products** by encouraging actions that minimise pollution impacts from manufacturing and consumption to regenerate ecosystems, strengthen local markets and communities, and enhance circular economies
- Call for the creation of a **UN wide system Task Force on Seaweed and a Technical Advisory Body on sustainable biomaterials**, within UNCTAD, to fill regulatory and standard gaps and scale-up marine-based innovation and related product development





CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

From Geneva to Nice: A Road Map for Sustainable Ocean Economies



- Calling for a **New Blue Deal to bridge the ocean finance gap for implementing SDG14 (\$175 billion per year)**, by promoting a cohesive approach to ocean finance, investment, trade, technology, and innovation
- **Explore the feasibility of a UN driven One Ocean Finance Facility** to unify and facilitate financial support for trade and ocean economy initiatives, especially in SIDS and LDCs, that are ineligible for existing climate funds or uninsurable due to increases in climate disaster risks
- **Reform fiscal incentives to promote sustainable use in ocean economic sectors**, including by establishing dedicated financial support mechanisms for small-scale fishers, women and seaweed associations that generate environmental, social, and economic benefits and by redirecting fossil fuel and harmful fisheries subsidies