



Ms. Dona Bertarelli

Special Advisor for the Blue Economy

Ms. Dona Bertarelli, the fastest woman to sail around the world, a philanthropist, ocean conservation advocate and entrepreneur, is the Special Adviser for the Blue Economy for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Ms. Bertarelli is a Swiss philanthropist of Italian origin and an experienced sailor. She helps UNCTAD promote a sustainable blue economy, particularly in developing countries, to ensure the responsible and regenerative use of the ocean, seas and coasts for economic growth, while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem.

Her love of the ocean and offshore sailing has taken her across the world's waters, inspiring her work in conservation. Ms. Bertarelli brings expertise, innovation and vision to her new role.

She believes strongly in the power of business to do good for society. When she served as executive director of the family pharmaceutical business, Serono, she drove the development of its philanthropy and educational programmes.

She co-created the Bertarelli Foundation in 1998, and for the last decade, has led the foundation's work in advancing marine conservation policy and ocean protection, which can help safeguard the livelihoods of the billions of people who rely on the ocean for their food and livelihoods.

To date, it has supported the protection and environmental conservation of more than 2.7 million square kilometres of the ocean.

Among her other philanthropic activities, she has developed programmes to support young people on the front line of climate change in creating sustainable and social enterprises, and an educational programme for school children.

Ms. Bertarelli's multi-stakeholder approach of combining science, technology and education on one hand and working with governments as well as with local communities on the other will add immense value to UNCTAD's work on the blue economy.

Ms. Bertarelli was appointed Special Adviser of UNCTAD for the Blue Economy in June 2020.

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