

UN-Oceans Work Programme

(January – December 2023)

I. UN-Oceans mandate

1. UN-Oceans is an inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority, within existing resources, in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the respective competences of each of its participating organizations and the mandates and priorities approved by their respective governing bodies.
2. Pursuant to its terms of reference,¹ UN-Oceans is mandated to:
 - (a) Strengthen and promote coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to ocean and coastal areas;
 - (b) Regularly share ongoing and planned activities of participating organizations within the framework of relevant United Nations and other mandates with a view to identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy;
 - (c) Facilitate, as appropriate, inputs by its participating organizations to the annual reports of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries to be submitted to the Secretariat;
 - (d) Facilitate inter-agency information exchange, including sharing of experiences, best practices, tools and methodologies and lessons learned in ocean-related matters.

II. Activities in 2023

A. Sharing of information on ongoing and planned activities of participating organizations within the framework of relevant United Nations and other mandates with a view to identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy

1. Identify ongoing and planned activities related to ocean and coastal issues approved by the respective governing bodies of UN-Oceans members for the purpose of updating the Inventory of mandates and activities and continue to

¹ General Assembly resolution 68/70, Annex.

develop the online platform for the inventory to enhance its user friendliness.
[Ongoing]

2. Maintain the calendar of conferences, intergovernmental meetings and processes, workshops and other events related to oceans and coastal issues, and share information on planned activities, for example in relation to the following:
 - a. The Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects [coordination DOALOS];
 - b. Intergovernmental Conference under the auspices of the United Nations on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction [coordination DOALOS];
 - c. The 2023 United Nations Water Conference [coordination DESA/UN-Water];
 - d. The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development [coordination IOC];
 - e. Activities related to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework [coordination CBD];
 - f. The Conference of the Parties and the annual ocean and climate change dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [coordination UNFCCC];
 - g. The 6th United Nations Environment Assembly [coordination UNEP];
 - h. The Assembly and Council of the International Seabed Authority [coordination ISA];
 - i. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species [coordination CMS];
 - j. The Committee on Fisheries and its subcommittees [coordination FAO];
 - k. The Conference of the Parties to the PSMA [coordination FAO];
 - l. The Assembly and Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO [Coordination IOC];
 - m. The Assembly and Marine Environment Protection Committee of the IMO [coordination IMO];
 - n. The United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea [coordination DOALOS];
 - o. The Resumed Review Conference on the Fish Stocks Agreement [coordination DOALOS];
 - p. World Oceans Day [coordination DOALOS];

- q. The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection [coordination IMO];
 - r. The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture [coordination FAO];
 - s. The Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
 - t. Regional Seas Convention Meeting
 - u. SIDS International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
 - v. Activities related to the implementation of the United Nations Global Early Warning Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation
 - w. 46th session of the World Heritage Committee [coordination UNESCO]
 - x. The General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency [coordination IAEA]
3. Contribute information to the World Oceans Day portal regarding planned events to mark World Oceans Day in 2023 [coordination IOC and DOALOS].
 4. Update the UN-Oceans website to enhance visibility of activities by UN-Oceans and its members [coordination FAO and DOALOS]. [Ongoing]

B. Strengthening and promotion of coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to ocean and coastal areas

1. Identify synergies and possible areas for collaboration, supported by the inventory of mandates, priorities and on-going and planned activities. [Ongoing]
2. Collaborate with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, including through participation in the Decade Advisory Board [coordination IOC].
3. Continue to contribute to the efforts of the Secretary-General to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including as referred to in “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility” (General Assembly resolution 76/296, para. 16).
4. Implement the UN-Oceans voluntary commitment launched within the context of the 2017 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development (Ocean Conference) by providing briefings in the margins of intergovernmental meetings or conferences of parties or relevant regional events, to inform participants of current ocean-related regulatory and policy frameworks as well as relevant activities, for instance through workshops or dialogues.

5. Support the activities of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean aimed at leading the United Nations advocacy and public outreach efforts to ensure that the outcomes of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, including the voluntary commitments registered at the Conference, are fully analysed and implemented, and to encourage stakeholders' activities in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, in particular through the Communities of Ocean Action [coordination DESA].
6. Organize UN-Oceans side events at relevant ocean-related meetings, including the UN 2023 Water Conference (NY, 22-24 March), the meetings of the High-Level Political Forum (July 2023), the 2023 SDG Summit (September 2023) and other high-level events in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other relevant Sustainable Development Goals, and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UAE, 30 Nov –12 Dec).
7. Organize joint activities, where appropriate and feasible, to mark World Oceans Day 2023 [coordination DOALOS].

C. Facilitation of inputs by UN-Oceans participating organizations to the annual reports of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries

1. Contribute to the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the topic(s) of focus of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea [coordination DOALOS].
2. Contribute to the annual report of the Secretary-General on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea during the period 31 August 2022 to 31 August 2023 [coordination DOALOS].
3. Contribute to the review of the terms of reference of UN-Oceans by the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, upon request.

D. Facilitation of inter-agency information exchange, including sharing of experiences, best practices, tools and methodologies and lessons learned in ocean-related matters

- Continually exchange information and case studies on experiences, best practices, tools and methodologies and lessons learned utilizing different mechanisms, such as the "IW:LEARN" platform, Digital Platform on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter, Marine Protected Areas Toolkit (MPATH) [coordination UNDP, UNEP, IOC].