

UNFCCC COP 30 – Belém, Brazil
UN-Oceans side event
Friday, 14 November 2025, 13:15-14:45
(Room: SIDE EVENT ROOM 6)

Ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus: leveraging synergies across frameworks

Programme

13:15	Opening remarks	Ms. Elinor Hammar skjöld, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, UN-Oceans Focal Point [delivered by Ms. Valentina Germani, Senior Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (OLA/DOALOS)]
13:20	Framing discussion, introduction to panel/s and format	Ms. Cecilia Kinuthia-Njenga, Director, Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress Division, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Chair and moderator
13:25	Keynote	H.E. Ambassador Carlos Cozende y, Secretary for Multilateral Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, and Co-Facilitator of the Ocean & Climate Change Dialogue (Brazil) and Mr. Ulrik Lenaerts, Deputy Director, Directorate Climate and Environment, Belgium Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Development Cooperation (Belgium), Co-Facilitators of the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue Key messages from the 2025 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue
13:35	Panel I Frameworks and processes	Mr. Tristan Tyrrell, Programme Management Officer, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Importance of synergies across conventions and next steps for CBD, UNFCCC and BBNJ [5 minutes] <i>The health of marine ecosystems underpins both climate regulation and biodiversity resilience. The ocean absorbs about a quarter of global CO₂ emissions and over 90 percent of excess heat, yet its ability to perform this role depends on thriving marine biodiversity — from plankton and mangroves to coral reefs and seagrasses — all of which are essential for us to successfully Live in Harmony with Nature. Fragmented policy responses risk undermining these natural processes, whereas integrated action across the Rio Conventions and related frameworks can generate co-benefits for mitigation, adaptation, and conservation. Aligning NBSAPs, NDCs, marine biodiversity strategies and blue-economy planning enables countries to protect carbon-rich ecosystems, strengthen coastal</i>

resilience, and sustain livelihoods, while ensuring that the KMGBF and Paris goals and targets reinforce rather than compete with one another.

Ms. Julia Wolf, Natural Resources Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Blue Transformation: addressing the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture [5minutes]

Aquatic foods are key to providing food and livelihoods in a context of population growth, biodiversity loss and climate change. FAO's Blue Transformation provides a roadmap to maximize the contribution of aquatic foods to address sustainable goals, through the efficient management of fisheries, the sustainable development of aquaculture and the enhancement of value chains. Integrating fisheries and aquaculture adaptation and mitigation solutions across national climate strategies is critical to Blue Transformation, supported by tools such as the NDC-Fish Guidelines and NAP-Fish Guidelines. At the core this work is strong partnerships—uniting stakeholders across levels to support an ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture, and science-driven policymaking for a more connected, transparent, and effective approach to address the triple planetary crisis while ensuring food and nutrition for all.

Mr. Roel Hoenders, Head, Climate Action and Clean Air Section, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The regulatory work of IMO, including shipping, carbon capture and storage, and marine geoengineering [5 minutes]

Latest updates on IMO's developments in improving energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of global shipping through mandatory requirements in the MARPOL Convention, and facilitating sustainable ocean-based carbon capture and storage and marine geo-engineering techniques through the London Protocol and Convention.

Ms. Lorna Inniss, Head of the IOCARIBE SubCommission Secretariat, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)

Mainstreaming climate resilience and adaptation through sustainable ocean planning and management [5 minutes]

Ms. Chiaki Ota, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR Pacific Regional Office (OHCHR)

How protecting human rights can help address ocean degradation and facilitate action on the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus [5 minutes]

The impacts of biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution on the ocean disproportionately impact the human rights of those who are most dependent on nature or are already in vulnerable situations.

Respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights in the context of the ocean is not only an obligation under international law. Centring ocean action in human rights and supporting rights-holders' stewardship, in particular by upholding their human rights, is necessary to ensure a coherent, transformative and effective response to ocean degradation. Human rights also provide a framework for addressing ocean degradation in an equitable and just manner and safeguarding the ocean for both present and future generations.

Ms. Valentina Germani, Senior Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (UN-DOALOS)

Title - The BBNJ Agreement as a framework for enhanced cooperation for the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus [5 minutes]

The BBNJ Agreement provides a framework to address, in a holistic manner, the multiple pressures affecting ocean health and its role in climate regulation. It recognizes the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus and acknowledges the urgency of addressing biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation caused by climate change. Cooperation and coordination among relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies are at the heart of the BBNJ Agreement, as already demonstrated by the collaborative efforts in the context of the capacity building activities in support of its entry into force and early implementation. Its timely entry into force marks a new chapter in multilateral cooperation, reinforcing the relevance of UNCLOS in the climate context and paving the way for inclusive, science-based, and resilient stewardship of our shared ocean.

14:10 **Panel II**
Implementation and
partnerships

Ms. Regina Asariotis, Chief (ai), Trade Logistics Branch and Chief, Policy and Legislation Section, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (virtual)

Ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus: key issues for sustainable maritime transport, trade and development [5 minutes]

The intervention will highlight some key issues as well as related areas of UNCTAD work, with focus on leveraging synergies across frameworks.

Ms. Vanessa Hatje, Research Scientist, IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories (IAEA)

Building Partnerships for Nature-Based Solutions at the Ocean–Climate–Biodiversity Nexus [5 minutes]

Partnerships are central to advancing Nature-based Solutions through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation programmes at national, regional, and interregional levels. Key collaborations include REMARCO (Research Network of Marine-Coastal Stressors in Latin America and the Caribbean), the IAEA Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC), and the Global Ocean Decade Programme for Blue Carbon (GO-BC).

These initiatives address the climate–ocean health–biodiversity nexus, strengthening Member States' capacities for climate change mitigation, ecosystem resilience, and food security. Through multi-

stakeholder partnerships, the IAEA supports technology transfer, training, fellowships, and access to equipment, fostering a strong, inclusive research community.

Ongoing projects, such as Blue Carbon projects in Africa and Latin America exemplify how these collaborations help countries implement Nature-based Solutions to counter climate change and ocean acidification, while contributing directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. Roy Martin Hasudungan, Deputy Director for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (INDONESIA) (UN-ESCAP)

“Regional cooperation to accelerate ocean-based climate action in Asia-Pacific, highlighting the technical support of UN entities in the development of the *Initiative for Regional Cooperation on Ocean-based Climate Action*” [5 minutes]

Ms. Katrin Lichtenberg, Head of the Water, Environment and Climate Portfolio, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

How implementation and partnerships can operationalize the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus through regional ocean governance [5 minutes]

UNOPS will highlight how the UN Common Approach and other global commitments, such as the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the new BBNJ Agreement, can be implemented through tangible coordination, scientific cooperation, and policy innovation at national, regional and international levels. The Wider Caribbean Ocean Coordination Mechanism offers an innovative example, serving as a non-legally binding regional governance platform that currently unites 20 States and 9 Intergovernmental Organizations to advance coordinated action at the ocean–climate–biodiversity nexus. Through collaboration between multiple UN-Oceans members, the OCM facilitates a shared regional vision for healthy, resilient, and productive marine ecosystems, while strengthening coastal resilience, food security, and sustainable ocean economies. The OCM exemplifies the potential of the UN system to work as “One UN for One Ocean.”

14:30 **Q&A**

Closing remarks

Moderator