

**UN-Oceans side event**

“Striving for Ambitious Ocean-Based Action: How UN-Oceans can support States in scaling up ocean-related actions, including in the context of the next round of NDCs”

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties – Baku, Azerbaijan
11-22 November 2024**

Statement by Mr. Stephen Mathias, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel and UN-Oceans Focal Point

As delivered by Mr. Fernando Cabrera Diaz, Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs

**16 November 2024
11:30 A.M. – Room: Side Event 3**

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

Friends and colleagues,

On behalf of Mr. Stephen Mathias, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, and UN-Oceans Focal Point, it is my great pleasure to open this UN-Oceans side event on the theme “Striving for Ambitious Ocean-Based Action: How UN-Oceans can support States in scaling up ocean-related actions, including in the context of the next round of NDCs” at this 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



As you may recall, the ocean was mentioned in over half of the submissions by Parties and other stakeholders to the Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement. This reflects the increasing recognition of the ocean as not only one of the worst affected ecosystems to date but also of the key role of ocean ecosystems and activities in the race to mitigate and adapt to the catastrophic impacts of climate change. Indeed, earlier this week, the ocean was featured in the key findings presented by the co-facilitators of the UNFCCC Ocean-Climate Dialogue, and next week, this Conference will hold its Ocean Day, both of which are now recurring events.

The members of UN-Oceans, the interagency mechanism for strengthening and promoting cooperation and the coherence of United Nations system activities related to ocean and coastal areas, are pursuing such cooperation in the fight against climate change and its impacts. They are striving to work as one in the ocean space to support States in taking measures to halt and adapt to destructive trends in the ocean space.

Today's event will focus on how UN-Oceans can support States in scaling up ocean-related actions to combat climate change, including in the context of the entry into force and early implementation of the Agreement 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 (BBNJ Agreement), which provides a great opportunity to increase the synergies between actions to combat climate change and protect and preserve the ocean. The event will showcase the work of UN-Oceans members aimed at raising ambition through ocean-climate action as well as supporting States scale-up ocean action in the next round of NDCs, which are due early in 2025.



I look forward to an insightful and constructive exchange of ideas on how we can continue and enhance our work together as one UN system to support global efforts to combat the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, while leveraging the climate-ocean-biodiversity nexus.

Thank you.