



# UN-Oceans Work Programme

(January – December 2021)

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## 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,<sup>1</sup> 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 2021

### 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 on-going 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

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 68/70, Annex.

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

2. Share information on planned activities, at conferences, intergovernmental meetings and processes, workshops and other events related to oceans and coastal issues that may include 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 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 United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea [coordination DOALOS]
  - d. The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority [coordination ISA]
  - e. FAO COFI meeting [coordination FAO]
  - f. The UNEP UNEA [coordination UNEP]
  - g. The UNFCCC SBSTA and COP [coordination UNFCCC]
  - h. The CBD COP and SBSTTA [coordination CBD]
  - i. The IMO MEPC meeting [coordinated by IMO]
3. 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, including through the UN-Oceans task force on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030 [coordination IOC].
3. 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, as referred to in “Our Ocean Our Future: Call for Action” (General Assembly resolution 71/312, para. 14) including as part of Secretary-General global call for a decade of action to deliver the SDGs by 2030.
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 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, as well as with regard to keeping the momentum on the Ocean Conference to be held in 2022 [coordination DESA].
6. Contribute to the United Nations High Level Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-hosted by Portugal and Kenya (Lisbon, Portugal, 2022)[coordination DESA]
7. Organize UN-Oceans side events at relevant ocean-related meetings, including the Conferences of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the meetings of the High Level Political Forum and other high-level events in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other relevant Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Organize joint activities, where appropriate and feasible, to mark World Oceans Day 2021 and 2022 [coordination DOALOS] and contribute information to the World Oceans Day portal regarding planned events to mark World Oceans Day in 2021 and 2022 [coordination IOC and 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 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 [coordination DOALOS].
3. Contribute to the review of the terms of reference of UN-Oceans by the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth 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 [coordination UNDP].