



Ministry of Oceans
and Fisheries

Plastics and marine pollution: innovations for SDG 14.1

CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

Wednesday, 29 June 2022, 1600-1715 (75 minutes)

Venue: Committee Room, Altice Arena, Lisbon, Portugal

BACKGROUND

Despite some progress, the world's oceans continue to face multidimensional crises driven by overfishing, pollution, habitat loss, invasive species & climate change. Much needs to be done to achieve the 2030 Ocean Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The challenge remains that among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), SDG 14 is estimated to receive the lowest level of investment, only averaging \$1.3 billion per year.

The governments of Kenya and Portugal are co-hosting the 2022 Ocean Conference from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal to identify ways and means to support the implementation of SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development) under the backdrop of "the Ocean Decade 2021-2030".

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of the Republic of Korea (ROK) join forces to co-organize a side event with a focus on finding solutions to marine plastic and other pollution issues at the global and national level.

The UNOSD, which serves as the technical arm of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), holds a global mandate to strengthen the capacity of Member States to undertake integrated sustainable management strategies through improved knowledge management, and policy advisory. Acknowledging the importance of SDG 14 as one of the backbones of all SDGs, UNOSD highlighted SDG 14 as one of the main topics discussed at their annual flagship events such as the Sustainable Development Training Forum, Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and International Mayors Forum. In 2019, the UNOSD held the side event "Towards a Plastic-Free ASEM – 3R Practices in Asia and Europe" at UNFCCC COP25 in partnership with Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) to explore practical examples of local initiatives to reduce plastic waste in Asia and Europe.

UNDP is actively engaging and supporting global efforts in addressing these challenges through its programmes and initiatives. Through the Water and Ocean Governance Programme (WOGP), which has one of the largest ocean and freshwater project portfolios in the UN System, UNDP continues to expand its innovative and transformational work in both freshwater and marine ecosystems. In 2020, with the catalytic funding support from Sida and Norad, UNDP launched the [Ocean Innovation Challenge](#) (OIC) as a unique new mechanism designed to accelerate progress on SDG14 by identifying, financing, and mentoring truly innovative, entrepreneurial and creative approaches and technologies to ocean and coastal restoration and protection. These replicable and scalable innovations should sustain livelihoods and advance the blue economy.

UNDP is one of the three UN agency partners for the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), working with the private sector in financing coral reef conservation, while helping countries to rebuild and enhance resilience to COVID-19 and other crises. Additionally, the UNDP SIDS Offer helps strengthen national capacities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the sustainable management of its coastal and marine resources as they maximize the benefits of a blue economy. The MOF of ROK is laying a solid foundation for the sustainable management of marine environments in Korea to achieve SDG 14 at the national level. To tackle the marine plastic pollution in Korea, the Ministry rolled out efforts to reduce marine plastics, such as supplying eco-friendly buoys, and establishing the master plan on marine waste in 2021. Korea has set an ambitious target to cut marine plastic pollution by 60% by 2030 and have zero plastic waste from Korea in the oceans by 2050.

The high-level side event at the UN Ocean Conference will convene global thought leaders, experts from governments, international organizations, civil societies, and academia to deliver diverse perspectives on marine plastic pollution with science and evidence-based insights, policy and business solutions to address marine plastic challenges. A panel, featuring UNDP's first cohort of innovators working on marine pollution reduction (SDG 14.1), will tackle the innovators' experiences and lessons learned in applying ocean innovation on the ground as well as opportunities for organizations and individuals to contribute to this effort.

OBJECTIVES

This high-level event aims to:

- share up-to-date scientific findings on marine plastic pollution and increase understanding of the status and the impacts of plastic on the ocean;
- present examples of science-based solutions to combat marine plastic problems as well as innovative, entrepreneurial and creative approaches and technologies in action;
- discuss transformative approaches to addressing marine plastic pollution at the global and national level; and
- inspire and encourage individuals, organizations, the public and business sectors as well as industries to put forward and cultivate new ideas and incubate and invest in disruptive technologies and innovative solutions.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Event moderator: Dr. Andrew Hudson, Head, UNDP Water and Ocean Governance Programme

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING SESSION	
1600 – 1616 (16 mins) Opening remarks	<p>Top dignitaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Anders Grönvall, State Secretary to Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Sweden • Mr. Sang-Keun Song, Vice Minister, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea • Dr. Ibrahim Abdul Latif Al Muslimani, Assistant Undersecretary of Protection and Natural Reserves, Qatar • Mr. Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
1616 – 1628 (12 mins) Setting the stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing SDG 14 from the UN Organizations Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Andrew Hudson, Head of UNDP Water and Ocean Governance Programme ○ Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD • Death by Marine Plastic Debris <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Youngran Lee, Professor, Osan University
1629 – 1640 (12 mins) Solutions to Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Yukyung Jang, Deputy Director, Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries, ROK • Mr. Yuvan Beejadhur, Senior Advisor to the Director-General, World Trade Organization • Ms. Kristin Hughes, Director of Global Plastic Action Partnership, World Economic Forum • Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environment Programme)
PANEL DISCUSSION	
1641 – 1710 (30 mins) UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge – Applied Solutions	<p>Panel Moderator: Dr. Mary Matthews, UNDP Ocean Advisor</p> <p>Panel: OIC first cohort innovators on Marine Pollution Reduction/SDG14.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Global Plastics Policy Database – Dr. John Virdin, Nicholas Institute Duke University, USA ○ Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme in the Maldives – Mr. Paolo Facco, Adelphi Consult GmbH, Germany/Maldives ○ Promoting Laws to Protect Our Oceans with the Support of Civil Society and Coastal Communities – Atty. Eduardo Leiton, Fundacion OneSea, Costa Rica

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reducing microfiber pollution from the fashion industry – Ms. Ariel Muller, Forum for the Future, Singapore ○ PhosValue: Sustainable Solutions for Nutrient Recycling in Cape Verde – Dr. Jorge Santos, AqualnSilico, Portugal ○ Nutri-algae: Novel Sustainable Algae Based Fertilizers in Mexico and Morocco – Mr. Luis Lombana, Ficosterra, Spain ○ Fortuna Coconut Coolers – Ms. Tamara Mekler, Fortuna Cools, US and Philippines
CLOSING	
<p>1710 – 1715 Concluding Remarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Minna Epps, IUCN, Director Marine and Polar Program