United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 2026

Information Note by the Co-Facilitators

(22 May 2026)

Summary

This information note provides the co-facilitators' choice of topics for the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 2026 ("Dialogue"), guiding questions and proposed approach based on consultations with Parties and observers. These consultations took place at the virtual informal exchange of views for the preparation of the 2026 Dialogue held on 26 and 27 March 2026.

Based on the letter dated 13 March 2026 to Parties and observers by the co-facilitators, and the exchange of views, the co-facilitators decided that the three topics of the dialogue will be:

a) Ocean-based priorities in the Nationally Determined Contributions.
b) Means of Implementation.
c) Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation.

The Dialogue will be held on 10–11 June 2026, 15:00–18:00 CEST, Plenary Room New York, World Conference Center, Bonn. The New York room will also be used for the breakout sessions. The dialogue will be conducted in hybrid mode in English only.

Abbreviations and acronyms

ABMT	area-based management tools
ABNJ	areas beyond national jurisdiction
AC	Adaptation Committee
ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
AGN	African Group of Negotiators
BTR	Biennial Transparency Reports
BBNJ Agreement	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
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCS	carbon dioxide capture and storage
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CO2	carbon dioxide
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPPs	Climate Prosperity Plans
DOALOS	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
EW4All	Early Warnings for All
EWS	early warning system
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GBFF	Global Biodiversity Framework Fund
GBON	Global Basic Observing Network
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GGA	Global Goal on Adaptation
GHG	greenhouse gas
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GST	global stocktake
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISA	International Seabed Authority
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ICZM	Integrated coastal zone management
IGOs	intergovernmental organizations
ISCP	Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JTWP	The UAE Just Transition Work Programme
KMBGF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LDC	least developed country
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
mCDR	marine carbon dioxide removal
MSP	marine spatial planning
MOI	Means of Implementation
MPA	Marine protected area

MRV	monitoring, reporting and verification
MUCH	marine and underwater cultural heritage
NAP	national adaptation plans
NbS	nature-based solutions
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans
NDCs	nationally determined contribution
NELs	non-economic losses
NGOs	non-governmental organization
OBIS	ocean biodiversity information system
Ocean Decade	UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
PACM	Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism
RSO	Research and Systematic Observation
SLR	sea level rise
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	small island developing State(s)
SSKI	Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative
TA	Technical Assessment
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
TNA	technology needs assessment
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UAE FGCR	UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOC	United Nations Oceans Conference
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WCCB	World Conference Centre Bonn
WIM ExCom	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WOA	World Ocean Assessment
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Contents

I. Introduction

1. COP 25 mandated the first Ocean and climate change dialogue, drawing upon the knowledge and scientific findings from the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a changing climate.

2. At COP 26, in the Glasgow Climate Pact 2021, Parties requested the Chair of the SBSTA to hold an annual dialogue, starting at the fifty-sixth session of the SBSTA (June 2022), to strengthen ocean-based climate action. In decision 1/CP.27, the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, Parties decided that the annual ocean and climate change dialogue will, from 2023, be facilitated by two co-facilitators, selected by Parties biennially, who will be responsible for deciding the topics and conducting the dialogue, in consultation with Parties and observers.

3. Accordingly, as the co-facilitators for the 2026 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue ("Dialogue"), on 26 and 27 March 2026, we convened a virtual informal exchange of views ("exchange of views") with Parties and observers, that accommodated various time zones.

4. We have prepared this information note in advance of the Dialogue that provides our choice of the three topics and the agenda for the Dialogue, whilst taking note of the submissions of Parties and observers from the exchange of views, and our letter dated 13 March 2026.

5. The Dialogue will be held on 10–11 June 2026, 15:00–18:00 CEST, Plenary Room New York, World Conference Center, Bonn, Germany in conjunction with the SB. The New York room will also be used for the breakout sessions. The Dialogue will be conducted in a hybrid mode.

6. All information on the dialogue, including the detailed agenda and connection details, is available from the UNFCCC webpage.

II. Overview of the informal virtual exchange of views on the preparation for the ocean and climate change dialogue 2026

7. During the exchange of views, we made reference to our letter dated 13 March 2026, to present our vision for the 2026 Dialogue as a facilitative platform for Parties and observers to share experiences and foster international cooperation by supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement policy cycle.

8. Subsequently, we identified the following as the three priority areas, and invited Parties and observers to focus the exchange of views on the possible topics for this year's Dialogue:

(a) Ocean-based priorities in the NDCs;

(b) Means of Implementation; and,

(c) Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation.

9. Eleven Parties and groups of Parties, including the COP31 Presidency and, eighteen observers and groups of observers, provided their oral views and/or written statements at the exchange of views. Annex I provides the list of Parties and observers who provided views.

10. Further, in accordance with the Glasgow Climate Pact (Decision 1/CP.26 Paras. 60-61), the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC have reported in Annex 2 on how they are integrating and strengthening ocean-based action in their existing mandates and workplans. We are also grateful for the inputs from UN agencies highlighting relevant ocean-based processes, technical expertise, good practices, and sector-specific initiatives for the 2026 Dialogue, that have been included in Annex 2.

A. Summary of topics and expectations at the exchange of views

11. At the exchange of views, we encouraged Parties and observers to focus their interventions on the priority topics, expected outcomes and structure for the Dialogue.

(a) **Ocean-based priorities in the NDCs**. In our letter and based on an analysis of the NDCs, we identified certain ocean-based mitigation and adaptation areas that are a priority for Parties to deliver on their climate ambition.[1] All the interventions unanimously aligned with our identified priority areas. Interventions underscored highlighting country experiences, investment ready opportunities, showcasing practical tools and data, and lessons learned from the NDC development process to focus on supporting country implementation of the identified priorities. The need for continuity and consistency was strongly highlighted; therefore, integrating ocean-based action into the NDCs needs to be pursued throughout the full NDC cycle — from the design of NDCs through to implementation, transparency, and support. Opportunities to scale ocean-based measures were highlighted through initiatives like the Blue NDC Challenge and the Global Implementation Accelerator. NAPs, BTRs and adaptation communications were also identified as potential sources to map the ocean-based priorities. Participants also highlighted other emerging and cross-cutting issues, including sea level rise, loss and damage associated with ocean acidification and coral bleaching, precautionary approaches to marine CDR, impacts of geoengineering and deep-sea mining, submarine cable resilience, and deep ocean ecosystems.

(b) **Means of Implementation.** A major focus of the discussions centered on MOI particularly for developing countries, African nations, SIDS, and LDCs. Participants underscored the urgent need for scaled-up, predictable, and accessible finance, alongside strengthened capacity building, technology transfer, ocean observation systems, and regional cooperation. Discussions also identified persistent implementation barriers, including limited access to climate finance, weak infrastructure, data gaps, technical and regulatory barriers from scaling ocean and blue carbon solutions. Many interventions underscored that ocean-based climate action should be implemented in alignment with the best available science. Several interventions called for stronger links with the 2026 SCF Forum on "Financing climate action in water systems and the ocean". Barriers to blue carbon implementation, including the use of Article 6, were also noted.

(c) **Climate-ocean-biodiversity synergies, and international cooperation**. There was a strong convergence on the need to enhance synergies and strengthen international cooperation across the ocean–climate–biodiversity agendas. Participants emphasized aligning ocean-related action under the NDCs with other relevant conventions and processes, including the BBNJ Agreement, CBD, and IMO, and in line with UNFCCC and Paris Agreement principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances and equity. Interventions underscored the need for coherence and complementarity across processes, avoiding duplication, and strengthening linkages between NDCs and NBSAPs. Submissions emphasised the importance of cross-mandate collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement, as well as leveraging UN and non-UN initiatives such as the Blue NDC Challenge, the Blue Package, and Ocean Panel to advance synergies and cooperation. Interventions emphasized the recognition of Pacific region, SIDS and LDCs in advancing ocean ambition and strengthening international cooperation.

12. On expectations from the Dialogue including for COP31, interventions suggested advancing the Global Climate Action Agenda to complement the negotiated track, with the Dialogue outcomes mainstreamed in relevant COP31 decisions, and within the CMA agenda. It was suggested that the Dialogue outcomes inform relevant key UNFCCC and other relevant processes, conferences, Dialogues and meetings, including the Pre-COP in Fiji and

[1] See Annex 2 for the NDCs analysis on the identified ocean-based priorities- coastal resilience, including marine tourism; conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems including blue carbon sequestration; fisheries and aquaculture; ocean-based renewable energy; and decarbonization of maritime transport and shipping.

Tuvalu. Several interventions underscored strengthening the COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact by informing relevant UNFCCC agenda items and processes.

13. Some interventions suggested developing a structured, multi-year approach to ocean mainstreaming – through the adoption of a dedicated roadmap aligned with the Paris Agreement cycle for stronger integration into UNFCCC outcomes, and the establishment of a knowledge management system. It was suggested that the Dialogue takes stock of progress to date by gathering views to guide its next phase. The Dialogue was envisaged as a practical, problem-solving platform focused on identifying implementation barriers, enabling conditions, and replicable solutions and partnerships, thereby supporting the shift from ambition to delivery and translating momentum into concrete action. It was suggested that the Dialogue could catalyse coordinated global implementation of ocean climate solutions through collaboration with other stakeholders including by developing flagship publications, technical guidelines, and organizing joint events.

III. Approach to the 2026 Dialogue

A. Topics for the Dialogue

14. Based on the priority areas identified in our letter, and informed by the exchange of views with Parties and observers, we have decided that the three topics of the Dialogue will be:

(a) Ocean-based priorities in the NDCs.

(b) Means of Implementation.

(c) Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation

15. **Ocean-based priorities in NDCs.** Topic 1 will be ocean-based priorities in the NDCs (restoring and protecting marine ecosystems, sustainable food production, ocean-based renewables and transitioning away from fossil fuels, sustainable tourism, coastal resilience, tackling emissions from marine transport). The Dialogue will maintain a strong implementation focus—promoting actionable, non-prescriptive guidance and serving as a problem-solving platform to help translate ocean-based climate ambition into on-the-ground action. For each focus area, the Dialogue will invite an exchange on the specific implementation barriers and the "disenabling" conditions that hinder the delivery of ocean commitments in the NDCs. The Dialogue will also provide an opportunity to discuss how the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism can support Parties in the implementation of NDCs, whilst also discussing its limits to upscaling blue carbon.[2] In parallel, the Dialogue will seek inputs on the enabling conditions that are still not in place to scale the ocean priorities-regulatory, technical, institutional, financial.

16. The Dialogue will focus on surfacing and sharing good practices and early-mover experiences that can be replicated or adapted by Parties to accelerate implementation of ocean-related NDCs. The Dialogue will identify the concrete opportunities that exist for international cooperation, technology transfer, and capacity-building. The Dialogue will highlight existing initiatives such as the Blue NDC Challenge, the NDC Partnership, and encourage UN agencies to share regional experiences and projects. Developing countries, including SIDS and LDCs are particularly encouraged to contribute their experiences and challenges in developing and implementing their NDCs, alongside innovative approaches.

17. **Means of Implementation.** Topic 2 will focus on MOI that has emerged as the central enabler for delivery of ocean-based commitments in NDCs. With regard to finance, the Dialogue will focus on advancing a shared understanding and identifying practical pathways to unlock and scale predictable, accessible, and adequate ocean-related climate finance,

[2] See Annex 2 on Article 6 under the Paris Agreement.

recognizing that a significant proportion of Parties particularly developing countries and SIDS have framed their ocean-related actions as conditional on external support in their NDCs.[3] At the same time, the Dialogue will explore how to strengthen enabling conditions, including deploying innovative financial instruments for private capital, improving policy and regulatory frameworks, enhancing institutional and technical capacity, designing and operationalization of dedicated financing channels, mobilizing concessional public finance, and improving access to multilateral finance.

18. On capacity building, the Dialogue could engage on how to address the systemic constraints that underpin many of the capacity building challenges identified by Parties in their NDCs.[4] Discussions could focus on strengthening institutional and technical capacities to design, access, and implement ocean-related projects. The Dialogue could also examine how to foster more inclusive and sustained capacity-building efforts, including through partnerships, regional platforms, and south–south cooperation, while ensuring the meaningful participation of coastal communities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in the design and delivery of ocean-based solutions.

19. With respect to technology access, the Dialogue could provide a space to align support with the clearly articulated needs identified in the NDCs.[5] The Dialogue could explore how to enhance access to ocean observation and forecasting systems, improve baseline and blue carbon data availability, strengthen MRV systems and establish TNAs. Discussions could further focus on how enhanced support in both finance and capacity building could ensure that technological solutions enable the designing of robust, measurable, and scalable ocean-based actions. Across these MOI elements, we also see an opportunity to strengthen coherence with ongoing processes, including the 2026 SCF Forum.

20. **Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation.** Topic 3 will be ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies and international cooperation. Dialogue discussions could focus on how Parties are increasingly recognizing the interconnectedness of the ocean, climate, and biodiversity agendas within national and international processes, while identifying pathways to strengthen implementation, coherence, and cooperation. Based on the biodiversity–climate–ocean linkages reported by Parties in their NDCs and NBSAPs,[6] the Dialogue could examine practical approaches for improving policy coherence across the UNFCCC and CBD processes. The Dialogue could further identify concrete areas for alignment across NAPs, NDCs and NBSAPs.[7]

21. On international cooperation, the Dialogue could examine institutional coherence and coordination across conventions, treaties as well as relevant global, regional, subregional, and sectoral bodies on the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus. The Dialogue could discuss how Parties can be supported in the national implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, including on enhancing cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks at the first COP. The Dialogue could discuss how outcomes from the 2025 UN Ocean Conference can provide further momentum for advancing these synergies. Other relevant global and regional initiatives are encouraged to be discussed, including the Blue NDC Challenge, the Blue Package, the Global Climate Action Agenda, the Ocean Panel, Ocean Decade and UN-Oceans.

22. SIDS could highlight experiences related to integrated ocean governance, alignment of NDCs with NBSAPs and long-term strategies, and innovative approaches to ocean-based climate implementation that may serve as models for other Parties. The Dialogue could additionally highlight the importance of Indigenous Peoples, traditional knowledge, and

[3] See Annex 2 on the Ocean-based priorities in the NDCs.
[4] Refer to Annex 2 on ocean-based priorities in the NDCs.
[5] Ibid. Refer also to the written input from CBD in Annex 2.
[6] Ibid.
[7] Refer to annex 2 on LEG inputs. Further, sectors identified in NAPs show that coastal and low-lying zones were identified as a priority area. See Progress in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans. Report by the secretariat, 21 October 2025. Available here. https://unfccc.int/documents/650482.

innovative governance models in advancing ocean–climate–biodiversity synergies. Finally, the Dialogue will benefit from the sharing of information by UN agencies, which aim to support Parties in identifying practical ways to enhance synergies across relevant processes.

B. Modalities of the ocean and climate change dialogue 2026

23. At the exchange of views on the Dialogue modalities, the 2023–25 Dialogue format was recommended as the proposed continued structure for this year's Dialogue. Accordingly, we will retain the same structure for the 2026 Dialogue. Day 1 will start with a COP31 Presidency segment on the ocean. Thereafter, the remaining proceedings will focus on setting the scene on the three topics. Accordingly, we will have a set of three panels comprising of Parties and experts, to introduce each of the Dialogue topics, and share their respective national experiences and relevant initiatives. After each panel, there will be a plenary with short interventions and Q&A.

24. Day 2 will focus on defining the outcome for the Dialogue for COP31. Accordingly, we will launch the world café style breakout group discussions on the topics with appointed moderators and rapporteurs. These discussions will focus on good practices at the national and regional level, and knowledge exchange based on the guiding questions prepared by us. We will have a total of 9 breakout groups to discuss all the three topics and the cross-cutting questions. Three groups will discuss the same topic. After 35 minutes, there will be a rotation, and the second group per topic will build on the work of the first group on the topic. The final rotation will conclude the discussions and validate the emerging recommendations.

25. After the breakout group discussions, we will resume for a plenary session that will connect all the three topics by finalizing the key messages under our responsibility as the co-facilitators of the Dialogue. We will invite Parties and observers for their feedback on the key messages. Additionally, we will invite a few Parties to highlight good practices and lessons learned from their national and regional contexts in integrating ocean-based action in their NDCs, adaptation plans and in strengthening synergies and international cooperation. Due to time constraints, we invite Parties and observers to share their plenary statements in advance of the Dialogue, that will be published on the UNFCCC ocean webpage. Please share your statement no later than 5 June 2026 on the email ocean@unfccc.int. The plenary will close with finalization of key messages by us.

IV. Guiding questions and indicative agenda for the ocean and climate change dialogue 2026

A. Guiding questions

Topic 1: Ocean-based priorities in the NDCs	1. What specific implementation opportunities and barriers exist in translating NDC commitments into on-the-ground action across the identified ocean-based priority areas (protecting and restoring marine ecosystems, sustainable food production, ocean-based renewables and transitioning away from fossil fuels, sustainable tourism, coastal resilience and tackling emissions from marine transport)? How can Parties address other challenges such as in relation to Loss and Damage? 2. What enabling conditions—regulatory, technical, institutional, and financial—are still needed to accelerate implementation and scaling of ocean-based climate action in the NDCs?

	3. What good practices or early-mover experience can Parties and observers share that others could replicate or adapt, and how can the Dialogue support the development of NDCs guidance to accelerate implementation of the ocean-related commitments? How can the Global Climate Action agenda, the Blue NDC Challenge, NDC Partnership, and the Global Implementation Accelerator be leveraged?
Topic 2: MOI	4. To what extent is existing climate finance accessible and fit-for-purpose for ocean-based action, particularly for developing countries, SIDS, and LDCs? What are the key financing instruments and sources available to support the implementation of ocean-based action in the NDCs and NAPs? 5. What support can the Dialogue provide to Parties in scaling ocean-related finance and addressing the finance barriers identified in NDCs? How can the 2026 SCF Forum support Parties in improving access to ocean-related finance? 6. What opportunities and good practices exist for Parties to strengthen capacity-building and accelerate the deployment of ocean-based technologies—while addressing the identified barriers in Parties' NDCs on institutional capacity, technical expertise, technology transfer, and data gaps identified, particularly for developing countries, SIDS, and LDCs?
Topic 3: Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies, and international cooperation	7. What scope do Parties see for strengthening alignment across NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs to support integrated ocean–climate–biodiversity action? 8. How can the Dialogue support Parties in the national implementation of the BBNJ agreement and strengthen mutual benefits in pursuing the goals of both the Paris Agreement and the BBNJ agreement? 9. How can the Dialogue promote international cooperation to support Parties in delivering on their ocean-based climate ambition? How can relevant regional and international processes, initiatives and mechanisms be leveraged to scale and implement ocean-based solutions?
Cross-cutting	10. Which guiding elements could be usefully integrated in the COP31 outcome for each of the three topics above so as to strengthen integration, finance and synergies on ocean-based action and to elevate their political importance? How can key meetings, dialogues and processes, including pre-COP and the Global Climate Action Agenda can enable the uptake of the Dialogue's messages and outcomes at COP31? 11. How can the Dialogue further strengthen the integration of ocean-based climate action across relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes as agreed upon in the Glasgow Climate Pact? 12. What elements could be included in a structured multi-year roadmap for the Dialogue to strengthen the integration and implementation of ocean-based climate ambition in alignment with the Paris Agreement policy cycle?

Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 2026 10–11 June 2026 Plenary Room New York, WCCB Chaired by the Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators ***Sivendra Michael (Fiji) and Ulrik Lenaerts (Belgium)***		
Day 1. Setting the Scene Tuesday 17 June, 15:00–18:00		
15:00	**Welcome**	*Co-facilitators, SBSTA Chair, ISCP Director*
15:10	**COP31 Presidency Segment on the Ocean**	*Australia & Türkiye*
15:55	**Panel on Ocean-based priorities in the NDCs.** **Plenary Q&A/ Short Interventions**	*Parties, United Nations, UNFCCC constituted bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations representatives*
16:35	**Panel on Means of Implementation.** **Plenary Q&A/ Short Interventions**	
17:15	**Panel on ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies, and international cooperation.** **Plenary Q&A/ Short Interventions**	
17:55	**Closing**	*Co-facilitators*
Day 2. Defining the Outcome Wednesday 18 June, 15:00–18:00		
15:00	**Introduction to the World Café Format Breakout Group Discussions**	*Co-facilitators*
15:10	**Breakout Group Discussions** • Participants will be divided into a total of 9 groups (10–20 people in each group) to discuss Topics 1,2, 3, with 3 Groups discussing the same topic, based on our guiding questions. • There will be a total of 2 rotations, with 35 minutes allocated for each breakout group discussion. • There will be a 5-minute transition time between each rotation.	*Breakout Groups with Moderators and Rapporteurs*
17:00	**Plenary** • Feedback from the breakout group discussions. • Parties to highlight good practices and lessons learned from their national and regional contexts in integration of ocean-based action in their NDCs, adaptation plans and enhancing synergies and international cooperation. • Reflections by co-facilitators on key recommendations.	*Moderated by the co-facilitators*
17:55	**Closing**	*Co-facilitators*

Annex I

List of Parties and observers who provided oral and/or written views at the informal exchange of views on 25–26 March 2026

Parties and groups of Parties
Brazil
Chile
COP31 Presidency joint statement (Australia & Türkiye)
European Union
Ghana on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)
Iceland
Indonesia
Mexico
Tuvalu
United Kingdom

UN organizations, observers and non-Party stakeholders
BirdLife International
Commonwealth Secretariat
Conservation International
Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations (DOALOS)
Environment Defense Fund
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
IOC-UNESCO
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance
Ocean and Climate Platform
Pew Charitable Trusts
The Nature Conservancy
The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
UN Tourism
World Resources Institute

Annex II

Relevant updates under the UNFCCC process, the UN system and other non-UN processes

A. UNFCCC Process

1. Adaptation Committee

1. **Ocean-based thematic priorities in NDCs.** Pursuant to paragraph 45 of decision 2/CMA.5, the AC, in collaboration with the CGE and the LEG, is mandated to develop recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress, including with a view to informing the review and update, as appropriate, of the MPGs for the transparency framework for action and support, and the review of the related training course. In implementing this mandate, the AC recalls that decision 2/CMA.5 calls for no additional reporting burden on Parties, while encouraging Parties to include in their adaptation communications, BTRs, NAPs, national communications, and NDCs information related to the GGA targets and on progress, good practices, experience and lessons learned in implementing the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.

2. The AC has reopened the call for submissions with a deadline of 30 June 2026, and welcomes inputs that reflect ocean-specific adaptation actions, measures, and indicators to inform another iteration of the recommendations to be considered at AC 30.

3. **Means of implementation.** The AC agreed at its 29th meeting to implement a two-track approach to support implementation of the UAE FGCR: enhancing access to and usability of existing guidance, and developing new training products, in collaboration with the CGE and the LEG. As part of this work, the AC is developing technical guidance on the ecosystems and ecosystem services target under the GGA, which provides a direct entry point for integrating ocean- and coastal-related adaptation considerations, including ecosystem-based adaptation, nature-based solutions, and blue carbon ecosystems.

4. The AC underlines the importance of ensuring that technical guidance and capacity-building support adequately address ocean-related adaptation needs, particularly for small island developing States and least developed countries, including through strengthening early warning systems and integrating the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

5. **Ocean–biodiversity–climate synergies and international cooperation.** The above-mentioned workplan activities provide entry points to strengthen ocean–biodiversity–climate interlinkages within adaptation reporting under the transparency framework. The AC's interactive portal on the State of Adaptation Action by Parties[8] serves as a resource for tracking adaptation action across regions and sectors, and can support Parties in identifying good practices relevant to ocean-based adaptation. The AC notes that aligning the planning and reporting processes of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and NAPs can improve efficiency, reduce duplication, and foster synergies between climate and biodiversity goals.

6. The AC encourages the ocean dialogue to consider how such interlinkages can be more systematically reflected in adaptation communications, BTRs, and inputs to the global stocktake, consistent with the no-additional-burden principle under decision 2/CMA.5. The AC will continue engaging the CGE, LEG, SCF, and other constituted bodies to support coherence across multilateral frameworks.

[8] https://unfccc.int/adaptation_country_portal.

2. Action for Climate Empowerment

7. Under the UNFCCC process, climate empowerment is addressed under Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, also known as ACE.

8. For addressing the interconnected challenges of ocean degradation due to the climate crisis, whilst recognizing the critical role of the ocean in regulating the climate, ambitious ocean-based climate action and informed, engaged, and empowered individuals and societies are needed. In this regard, ACE can serve as a key enabler of ocean-based climate ambition and implementation. The ACE toolbox enables climate change education and public awareness, training, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these matters.

9. One key connection between ACE and ocean discussions under the UNFCCC process is climate literacy, which includes the ACE elements of education, public awareness, training, and access to information. The UNFCCC secretariat has sought to strengthen information on ocean-related matters under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. For example, the Mastering International Climate Negotiations: All You Need to Know includes a dedicated module on the ocean, aimed at enhancing understanding of ocean-related issues and their consideration within the UNFCCC process.

10. Additionally, education systems that are fit for purpose can equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to design and implement effective, science-based solutions. To this end, the international cooperation element of ACE recognizes the need to bring together all relevant stakeholders, such as researchers, academia, educational institutions, and governments, to strengthen capacities, knowledge, and skills for effective climate action.

11. ACE is also a key enabler for inclusive and participatory climate change processes, such as the NDCs. It supports societal engagement and ownership by integrating and amplifying the voices of children, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, and other key stakeholders who bring valuable knowledge and leadership to ocean-climate action. In this way, ACE strengthens both the ambition and the legitimacy of national climate policies and strategies, as well as transparency and, therefore, accountability. When citizens are informed, engaged, and heard, governments are better positioned to implement ambitious measures that protect the ocean and build climate-resilient societies.

3. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

12. Blue carbon ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes, are increasingly recognized as important carbon sinks with significant potential for the implementation of international carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. These ecosystems can sequester and store large amounts of carbon over long periods, making them valuable not only for emissions reductions but also as potential sources of carbon removals. Given the growing recognition of blue carbon in NDCs, Article 6 could play an important role in mobilizing finance and accelerating implementation, particularly for SIDS and other coastal developing countries with significant blue carbon resources.

13. By measuring and certifying carbon sequestration from coastal and marine ecosystems and translating them into quantified emission reductions and removals, international carbon markets under Article 6 can support the achievement of NDCs and the enhancement of ambition. For example, mangrove restoration activities that remove and store CO2 could generate mitigation outcomes that may be transferred to another Party to support climate ambition. In particular, the PACM, established under Article 6.4, provides opportunities for Parties to generate high-integrity mitigation outcomes from blue carbon, while also supporting adaptation and sustainable development objectives.

14. Under these mechanisms, blue carbon activities could help channel finance towards the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems, including mangrove restoration, seagrass protection and rehabilitation of degraded coastal wetlands. Beyond carbon sequestration, blue carbon projects can deliver multiple co-benefits,

including strengthening coastal resilience against storms and sea-level rise, enhancing biodiversity and supporting livelihoods for coastal communities, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

15. While recognizing the potential and opportunities, important barriers remain to scaling blue carbon within carbon markets. Methodological challenges persist in measuring, reporting and verifying removals from marine and coastal ecosystems, including uncertainty in carbon accounting and relatively high monitoring costs. Furthermore, the limited integration of blue carbon into national greenhouse gas inventories can make it difficult to fully account for these activities at the national level and to recognize their contribution to national climate targets. Governance challenges, including unclear tenure and jurisdiction over coastal and marine resources, may also constrain project development and equitable benefit-sharing. There are also concerns regarding the potential for unintended harm to marine ecosystems if environmental and social safeguards are not adequately applied.

16. Addressing these barriers through rigorous methodological development fully aligned to PACM requirement including the permanence requirement, capacity-building and targeted finance could help unlock the mitigation and adaptation potential of blue carbon ecosystems within international carbon markets.

4. Global Stocktake

17. At COP28, in 2023, the outcome of the first GST (Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 180), welcomed the outcomes of and the informal summary report on the 2023 ocean dialogue and encouraged further strengthening of ocean-based action, as appropriate. It invited Parties to preserve and restore oceans and coastal ecosystems and scale up, as appropriate, ocean-based mitigation action (paragraph 35). It encouraged the implementation of integrated, multi-sectoral solutions, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, and protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems, including marine and coastal ecosystems, which may offer economic, social and environmental benefits such as improved resilience and well-being (paragraph 55). Further, Parties noted that ecosystem-based approaches, including ocean-based adaptation and resilience measures, can reduce a range of climate change risks and provide multiple co-benefits (paragraph 56).

18. The second GST under the Paris Agreement will commence at CMA 8 (November 2026) and conclude at CMA 10 (November 2028). Covering the period 2024–2028, the second GST will assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and identify opportunities to enhance action and support. Its outcome will inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support, as well as in strengthening international cooperation for climate action.

19. The second GST will be conducted in accordance with the modalities for the global stocktake established in decision 19/CMA.1 as well as the refinements outlined in decision 3/CMA.7. It will comprise of three components. The Information Collection and Preparation phase will focus on gathering, compiling and synthesizing information from a wide range of sources to support the TA process. The TA will take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, as well as opportunities for enhanced action and support to achieve its purpose and goals. The third and final component is the Consideration of Outputs, which will focus on discussing the implications of the findings of the TA with a view to informing future climate action and outcome of the GST.

20. As a comprehensive and facilitative process, the GST relies on broad participation and effective mobilization of inputs from a wide range of sources. Processes under SBSTA, including the Ocean Dialogue, can provide important opportunities to generate and share relevant knowledge and insights on ocean-climate linkages. It can play an important role in contributing insights, evidence and experiences that strengthen the understanding of

collective progress and inform enhanced action across all thematic areas of the Paris Agreement.

5. International Cooperation

21. Since 2019, the secretariat has been compiling information related to its cooperation activities with other international organizations, including the contribution of these activities to the work related to oceans and related to the Rio Convention synergies. At COP 30, Parties acknowledged that the Rio Conventions have distinct objectives, provisions and principles as well as governance arrangements and noted the importance of cooperation among them. They also noted the work conducted by the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Convention secretariats and requested that the UNFCCC secretariat strengthen its engagement in the Group, within the scope of the Group and under the authority of the secretariats' respective governing bodies.

22. Meanwhile, the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Convention secretariat Principals, established in 2001, has been working collaboratively in identifying concrete synergetic areas and promoting the importance of the Rio synergies. Detailed information can be found under rioconventions.org.

6. Least Developed Countries Expert Group

23. In response to the invitation under the Glasgow Climate Pact for constituted bodies and work programmes under the UNFCCC to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action within their mandates and workplans, the LEG, through its work on NAPs, wishes to highlight the following contributions relevant to ocean and coastal adaptation:

(a) The LEG and it NAP technical working group provided inputs to the development of a supplementary materials to support countries in integrating ocean and coastal adaptation into the NAP process. The supplement on "Coastal and ocean adaptation: Recommendations to improve the inclusion of coastal and ocean adaptation in the development of national adaptation plans" is available on NAP Central at https://napcentral.org/supplementary-materials/186.

(b) At NAP Expo 2025, a dedicated session on "Coastal and ocean adaptation" (Session 4.1.3) brought together experts, coastal LDCs, SIDS, and partner organizations to exchange experiences and good practices on integrating ocean and coastal resilience into NAPs and broader adaptation planning. (https://expo.napcentral.org/2025/event/4-1-3/)

(c) NAP Expo 2025 also included a session on "Supplements to the NAP technical guidelines" (Session 2.3.5), which showcased thematic supplements developed under the NAP technical guidelines, including those relevant to ocean and coastal adaptation, with the aim of strengthening technical support and implementation capacity for countries undertaking adaptation planning. (https://expo.napcentral.org/2025/event/2-3-5/)

(d) The LEG took part in a session on "Adaptation across scales and sectors: the case for coastal and ocean adaptation" during COP 30 at the Science Pavilion and delivered an intervention on the role of the NAP process, the updated NAP technical guidelines and supplementary materials in supporting countries to integrate coastal and ocean priorities into adaptation planning and implementation, including through stronger links to the GGA, the best available science, and access to adaptation finance.

7. Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

24. The preamble of Paris Agreement notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth. At COP 26, in decision 16/CP.26, Parties recognized the role of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in relation to the stewardship of and living in harmony with nature.

25. In implementing the Baku Workplan of the LCIPP, knowledge holders and practitioners from Indigenous Peoples and local communities from across the global community have shared case stories that show how their relationships with the ocean sustain cultures, identities, livelihoods and knowledge systems.

26. For example, knowledge holders from the Pacific, at the LCIPP annual gathering, described the ocean, reefs, fish, trees, and coastlines as beings with their own spirit, guiding and sustaining life. They emphasized that people are not owners of the land but caretakers with responsibilities to protect the health of Mother Earth for present and future generations. These relationships and responsibilities are transmitted intergenerationally through rituals, songs, and daily practices, including Fatele, a traditional dance in Tuvalu that expresses balance and togetherness, according to the local knowledge holder from the Pacific who participated in the LCIPP annual gathering of knowledge holders.

27. Similarly, knowledge holder from Sibuyan Mangyan Tagabukid community in the Philippines shared that in their communities land and waters are viewed as a shared living heritage rather than private commodities, and this worldview guides sustainable practices such as diversified farming, responsible harvesting of forest products and community-based decision-making about nature stewardship.

28. In the coastal communities of Thatta in the Indus Delta, the sea, mangroves and rivers are understood not simply as resources but as living relatives that sustain community life. Mangrove forests are valued as nurseries for fish and marine life before they enter the Arabian Sea, reinforcing the close relationship between coastal ecosystems and fisherfolk livelihoods. This worldview has traditionally shaped seasonal fishing practices, respect for breeding cycles, and the protection of mangrove forests as natural guardians against storms and tidal surges.

29. For Indigenous Peoples and local communities from around the world their sustainable lifestyles are climate action grounded in diversity of values, worldviews and lived experiences, as shared by the knowledge holders. Their knowledge systems are living systems, learned and transmitted through sustainable relationships with the lands and waters, including the ocean.

8. Lima work programme on gender and the Belém Gender Action Plan

30. The enhanced Lima work programme on gender (7/CP.29) and the Belém GAP (7/CP.30), provides guidance relevant to the integration of gender-responsive approaches to ocean-based climate action, including to the topics of the 2026 Dialogue.

31. Decision 7/CP.29 acknowledges the continuing need for gender mainstreaming throughout activities under the Convention to increase effectiveness, fairness, and sustainability, and decision 7/CP.30 acknowledges that differentiated impacts of climate change and opportunities for all women and girls, including Indigenous women, women from local communities, migrant women, women with disabilities, women smallholder farmers and women from rural and remote communities, are shaped by multidimensional factors.

32. The Belém GAP further strengthens mandates relevant to constituted bodies and UNFCCC work programmes, including activities to support systematic integration of gender perspectives into climate-related processes and to facilitate exchange of best practices on gender-responsive implementation. These principles could inform the 2026 Dialogue.

33. The Belém GAP additionally highlights the importance of and includes activities in relation to gender-responsive technological solutions, nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based adaptation, and the Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, traditional knowledge, and local knowledge systems and practices. The Belém GAP further emphasizes gender-responsive climate finance, monitoring, data, and evidence generation, as well as coherence within and beyond UNFCCC processes including the IPCC and the Rio conventions.

9. Ocean-based priorities in the Nationally Determined Contributions

34. From 1 January 2024 to 24 April 2026, a total of 119 Parties have submitted their new NDCs, with 91 Parties including at least one ocean-based component. Overall, 76.4 per cent of Parties included at least one explicit reference to the ocean, of which 86 per cent included ocean-based adaptation measures and 55 per cent included ocean-based mitigation measures. See figure 1 below for an overview of these ocean-based adaptation, mitigation and cross-cutting measures identified as priority areas as reported in Parties' NDCs.

35. Of the total of 457 ocean-related adaptation measures, 135 mitigation measures and 49 cross-cutting actions, priority sectors as underscored by the new NDCs include:

(i) **Coastal resilience**. 170 adaptation measures target coastal resilience through the development of integrated coastal zone management, marine spatial planning, coastal and infrastructure planning, sea-level rise measures, coastal and marine tourism, shoreline and wetlands restoration. 18 measures target marine and coastal tourism. 11 cross-cutting measures are aimed at mitigation and adaptation co-benefits.

(ii) **Coastal and marine tourism**. 18 adaptation measures target tourism, with 1 measure aimed at mitigation and adaptation co-benefits.

(iii) **Conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems including blue carbon sequestration.** 184 adaptation measures support the conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems in the form of nature-based solutions, marine biodiversity conservation, marine protected areas and other area-based management tools. 46 mitigation measures focus on blue carbon sequestration through the protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems, with few exploring the use of marine CO2 removal technologies. 27 cross-cutting measures are aimed at mitigation and adaptation co-benefits.

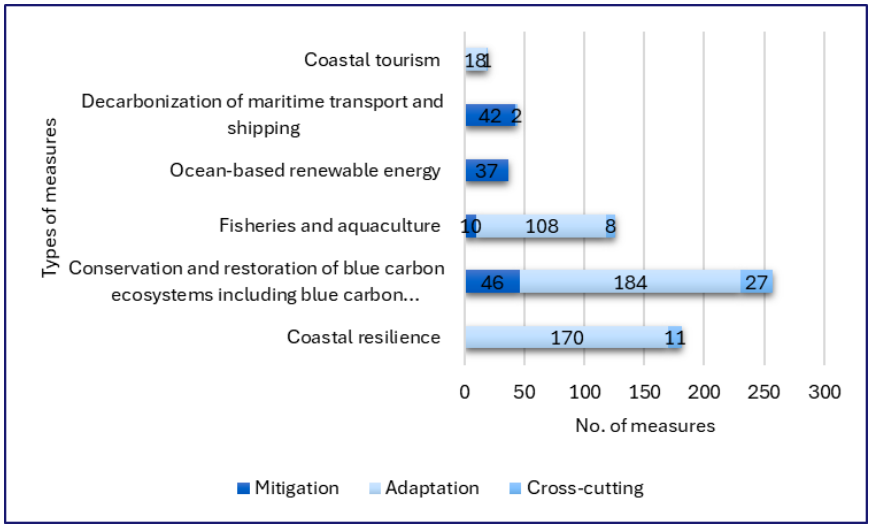
(iv) **Fisheries and aquaculture**. 108 adaptation measures are aimed at transitioning to climate-resilient fishing practices, promoting sustainable aquaculture, food and aquatic security, and protecting fishers' rights. 10 mitigation measures target the fisheries and aquaculture sectors through decarbonization of aquatic food production, decommissioning of fishing vessels, and transitioning to low emissions fishing vessels. 8 cross-cutting measures are aimed at mitigation and adaptation co-benefits.

(v) **Ocean-based renewable energy**. 37 mitigation measures relate to ocean-based renewable energy, including offshore wind, wave and tidal energy and thermal energy conversion.

(vi) **Decarbonization of maritime transport and shipping**. 42 mitigation and 2 cross-cutting measures target the decarbonization of maritime transport through low-emission fuels, energy-efficient shipping and green port infrastructure.

Figure 1

Number of ocean-based adaptation, mitigation and cross-cutting measures reported in Parties' nationally determined contributions, by area of measure



36. Means of Implementation emerged as a critical enabler for Parties to implement their ocean-based commitments in the NDCs. A total of about 59.3 per cent of Parties reported finance-related needs, of which approximately 47.3 per cent have made conditional commitments. All of these conditional commitments were made by developing countries, with around 46.5 per cent identified particularly by SIDS.

37. On capacity building, approximately 38.5 per cent of Parties in their NDCs identify concrete needs, particularly in relation to strengthening data collection, ocean observation, and monitoring systems, as well as deploying and maintaining ocean-based technologies.

38. With respect to technology, approximately 43 per cent of the Parties in their NDCs explicitly reference the need for access to and deployment of technologies. A significant proportion of Parties have identified needs related to technology access—such as establishing TNAs, deploying ocean observation systems, and strengthening MRV frameworks. Addressing data gaps and improving access to sea-level rise projections, coastal and ocean observing systems, and blue carbon ecosystem data are recurring priorities.

39. In addition, of the 105 countries requesting support through the NDC Partnership, 20 (9 per cent) requested support related to oceans and coasts in NDCs. Majority of the requests focused on finance, MRV systems and building capacity.

40. Thirty-two per cent of Parties explicitly reported on biodiversity–climate–ocean linkages in their NDCs, with 56 per cent of Parties describing explicit efforts to integrate NBSAP targets into NDC ocean-based targets. Among those Parties, 67 per cent referenced the KMGBF targets, with the most frequent references to Target 2 (restoration) and Target 3 (area based conservation), while 31 per cent referenced the need for coordination across the Rio Conventions.

10. Research and Systematic Observation

41. Under RSO, research related to the ocean and efforts to enhance ocean observation have been consistently considered through discussions held at the annual research dialogue and Earth Information Day, and reflected in negotiation outcomes. Specifically, during recent research dialogues, ocean-related research themes such as on ocean heat content, acidification, sea-level rise, marine biodiversity loss, cryosphere-ocean interactions, coastal resilience, and marine-based carbon dioxide removal. Discussions are also held on advances

and contributions of Earth system modelling and understanding of extreme events and tipping points associated with the ocean.

42. Through Earth Information Day and under SBSTA negotiations, the RSO has discussed advances and gaps in sustaining ocean observations as well as the role of ocean observations in informing climate policy and action. The work of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) in coordinating observations through essential climate variables (ECVs), and monitoring of climate indicators by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) are also extensively discussed.

43. Efforts in advancing the observation of ocean-based indicators, parameters that influence the ocean, such as the cryosphere, and closing observation gaps in under-observed regions are often noted. Other discussions related to emerging scientific needs, for instance the status of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation , abrupt Earth system shifts, climate information services and EWS, data sharing and role of innovations and technology are also discussed.

11. Standing Committee on Finance

44. The SCF organizes its Forum in accordance with its mandate to facilitate exchanges among stakeholders on climate finance issues to assist Parties' work on matters relating to climate finance. At its 37th meeting, the SCF agreed to focus its 2026 Forum on Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and the Ocean and the COP, at its 30th session, welcomed the Forum topic.

45. The Forum is expected to bring together Parties, financial institutions, UN agencies and IGOs, the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to exchange views, experiences and good practices related to financing climate action in water systems and the ocean. Participation in the Forum will be open to Parties and observers. The Forum is scheduled to take place from 21 to 22 September 2026, with the venue and location to be confirmed.

46. Preparations for the Forum are being advanced under the leadership of the SCF Forum co-facilitators. Preparations for the Forum are currently underway, including the review of submissions from Parties and observers, the preparation of an outline of the Forum, as well as the development of the programme and identification of speakers and contributors.

47. Submissions highlight the annual Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue as an important technical foundation for the 2026 SCF Forum and position the Forum as an opportunity to advance ocean-related finance within the broader climate finance architecture under the UNFCCC. They underscore the need to scale up support for ocean-based climate action, given its role in both mitigation and adaptation, while addressing persistent structural barriers that limit access to and effectiveness of finance for developing countries. Submissions also point to the importance of enhancing coherence across financial institutions, and multilateral and bilateral support providers, processes and instruments.

48. In this context, the Forum is expected to facilitate discussions on scaling up climate finance for water systems and the ocean, with a focus on strengthening the mobilization of and access to finance, as well as enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of financing approaches. It is anticipated to address issues such as the current state of financing, structural and systemic barriers to scaling up finance, enabling policy and institutional environments, financial sources and instruments, inclusive access to finance, and the role of data, science and technology in supporting implementation, while also exploring linkages across climate and other environmental agendas. The Forum may further provide a platform to consider existing institutions, processes and financing arrangements can more effectively support ocean-climate priorities.

49. The SCF will consider a draft provisional programme for the Forum at its 40th meeting, to be held from 19 to 20 June 2026. Following the conclusion of the Forum in

September 2026, the outcomes of the Forum will be captured by the SCF in a report to the COP and the CMA for consideration at COP 31 in Antalya.

12. Technology Executive Committee

50. The 2023–2027 workplan of the TEC, is organized around four workstreams designed to enhance the contribution and impact of the TEC in supporting implementation of the Paris Agreement. Through these workstreams, the TEC aims to promote science-based and systemic approaches, strengthen transformative technology solutions, focus on high-impact and high-potential sectors and actions, and foster collaborative partnerships.

51. Under workstream 3: Transformative and Innovative Solutions, Activity C.4.1 focuses on innovative ocean climate Solutions. Building on TEC's previous work on innovative technological and ecosystem-based approaches to strengthening ocean and coastal adaptation, this activity examines the contribution of innovative solutions and technological advances to ocean-based action, including the role of technology in addressing issues related to marine protected areas and supporting the achievement of SDG 14.

52. As part of this activity, the TEC developed key messages and recommendations for consideration by the COP and CMA. Over the years, TEC has also actively participated in the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue.

53. To accelerate the implementation and scale-up of innovative technologies and integrated climate solutions for ocean ecosystems and coastal zones, in the Joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network for 2023, it was recommended that:

(a) Policymakers embed ocean solutions in climate-related policies and sectors (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water security and disaster risk management); translate national policies into localized action; strengthen the governance and technical capacity of relevant institutions; and set policies that prioritize the most vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems;

(b) Public and private finance institutions strengthen enabling conditions by facilitating investment in such solutions; engage early on in risk reduction; commercialize promising integrated adaptation approaches; and improve accessibility to sustainable finance;

(c) Non-governmental and community-based organizations actively pursue meaningful participation of and leadership by local communities and vulnerable groups, including youth, women and Indigenous Peoples, at all stages of adaptation interventions; develop and cultivate partnerships with one another as well as with other stakeholders; and provide resources for informing evidence-based targets for integrated adaptation solutions and their monitoring;

(d) Academia and research institutes help to build a robust evidence base on the effectiveness, viability and multiple benefits of integrated adaptation approaches; and enhance collaboration between researchers, academia and local stakeholders in this regard;

(e) Practitioners engage in cross-sectoral exchange of knowledge through communities of practice and innovative partnerships and meaningfully engage diverse local stakeholders in integrated adaptation solutions.

13. The Global Climate Action Agenda

54. The Global Climate Action Agenda contributes to the integration and strengthening of ocean-based action by mobilizing non-Party stakeholders and implementation partners around ocean priorities reflected in Parties' NDCs and broader implementation efforts. For COP 31, the incoming Presidency has indicated Oceans and Seas as a priority area for the Action Agenda, with emphasis on increasing the climate resilience of coastal and marine

ecosystems. Additional emerging priorities include integrating blue carbon and ocean-based solutions and strengthening ocean observation, data sharing and regional cooperation.

55. These priorities will build on concrete implementation pathways developed through the "Stewarding Forests, Oceans, and Biodiversity" axis of the Action Agenda, including the Plan to Accelerate Ocean-based Climate Solutions: A Blue Package and the Plan to Accelerate Multiple Benefits of Algae Aquaculture. The Blue Package supports ocean-based climate solutions across marine conservation, aquatic food, ocean renewable energy, shipping and coastal tourism. These areas correspond closely to the ocean-related priorities, including coastal resilience, aquaculture, ocean-based renewable energy and maritime transport decarbonization.

56. The Action Agenda can help connect ocean-related priorities with partnerships, technology cooperation and investable solutions to support the implementation of NDCs. The Blue Package includes work to mobilize public and private finance, support investment pipelines and strengthen enabling conditions for ocean-based climate solutions. The algae aquaculture plan provides a practical sectoral example, including climate-resilient production technologies, community-based farming models, improved production and trade data, innovation, and support for SMEs, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.

57. On ocean–biodiversity–climate synergies and international cooperation, both plans support integrated, multi-stakeholder approaches for the implementation of relevant priorities across NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs and LT-LEDS. Together, these Action Agenda plans can help facilitate practical delivery across climate, biodiversity, food systems, finance and technology, while supporting the objectives of the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue.

14. The Global Goal on Adaptation

58. At COP30, the adoption of the Belém Adaptation indicators was a major outcome of CMA 7 (decision 12/CMA.7), with several indicators in the water, food and agriculture and ecosystems targets relevant to oceans and marine life and ecosystems. Further technical work on metadata and methodology will take place up to CMA 9, with the exact nature of the technical work is to be confirmed.

15. The UAE Just Transition Work Programme

59. The UAE JTWP was established by decision 1/CMA.4 to facilitate discussions on pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. Decision 3/CMA.5 defines the elements of the work programme in paragraph 2 and established the modalities of its operationalization, including through at least two dialogues a year. Decision 2/CMA.7 further recognizes the multisectoral, multidimensional and cross-cutting nature of just transitions and emphasizes that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, with just transition pathways to reflect national circumstances and nationally defined development priorities. It also highlights the importance of inclusive participation, meaningful social dialogue, labour rights, ecosystem integrity, human rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, adaptation and resilience, and enhanced means of implementation, including finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and international cooperation.

60. Ocean-related dimensions were substantively discussed under the work programme during the fifth dialogue, titled "Just transition pathways for holistic approaches to food security, including with a focus on agriculture and oceans", held in April 2026. Discussions highlighted among other themes, the role of marine and coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs and wetlands, in supporting food security, livelihoods, biodiversity protection, climate resilience and mitigation co-benefits through blue carbon and ecosystem restoration.

61. Participants emphasized the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture within nationally determined just transition pathways, particularly for coastal communities, small island developing States and developing countries with ocean-based economies.

Examples shared included marine protected areas, locally managed marine areas, ecosystem restoration initiatives, sustainable aquaculture, integrated marine spatial planning and support programmes for small-scale fishers.

62. A strong focus of the discussions was on the social and labour dimensions of ocean-based transitions. Interventions highlighted precarious working conditions in fisheries and related sectors, including among informal workers, migrant workers and women involved in fisheries value chains. Participants stressed the importance of social dialogue, labour rights, social protection, workforce development and participatory governance as enabling conditions for just transition pathways in ocean sectors.

63. Discussions also underscored the respect of human rights and the importance of meaningful participation, including the involvement of coastal communities, Indigenous Peoples and small-scale fishers in decision-making related to marine conservation and blue economy initiatives. Participants further emphasized that ocean-based action should remain nationally determined, context-specific and non-prescriptive, while supported by finance, technology transfer, capacity-building and international cooperation.

64. An informal summary of the fifth dialogue under the JTWP, prepared under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies will be published prior to SB64.

16. Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

65. The WIM ExCom contributes to advancing understanding and responses to climate change impacts in ocean and coastal contexts through its mandate to enhance knowledge, strengthen coordination, and promote action and support under its five-year rolling workplan. Technical work is implemented through its thematic expert groups, including the development of knowledge products.

66. Ocean-related dimensions of loss and damage are explicitly addressed in recent ExCom outputs. The technical guide on sea level rise (2025) provides a comprehensive framework for assessing and managing risks affecting coastal and marine environments. It outlines concrete response options, including protective measures (e.g. coastal armouring and flood barriers), accommodative approaches (such as ecosystem-based adaptation), and planned retreat (including strategic relocation of communities and infrastructure). These approaches are particularly relevant for coastal zones and small island developing States facing erosion, inundation, and salinization.

67. In parallel, the Compendium on Comprehensive Risk Management Approaches – Volume 2 (2025) advances integrated, risk-informed decision-making, incorporating responses to hazards such as flooding and sea-level rise. By framing loss and damage through "risk signatures" and illustrating tailored interventions, the Compendium supports integration of ocean-related risks into national planning processes, including NDCs.

68. Similarly, ExCom's work on NELs is also pertinent in ocean contexts. NELs relevant to ocean context include, but not limited to, impacts such as the loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services, cultural heritage, and place-based identities, and in coastal and island settings, can encompass the loss of territory due to sea-level rise—with profound implications for livelihoods, sovereignty, and cultural continuity.

69. Furthermore, the technical guide on integrating human mobility and climate change linkages (2024) provides practical tools for addressing displacement, migration, and planned relocation associated with climate impacts, including those affecting coastal populations exposed to sea-level rise and extreme events.

70. Across these areas, ExCom's work also contributes to enhancing international cooperation, including through its expert group on action and support and collaboration with the Santiago Network, facilitating access to technical assistance, capacity- building, and knowledge-sharing for developing countries facing ocean-related loss and damage.

71. Overall, the WIM ExCom's workplan and recent knowledge products provide concrete, policy-relevant inputs to the ocean dialogue by advancing integrated approaches to managing ocean-related risks and strengthening linkages across climate, ocean, and resilience agendas.

B. UN system and other non-UN processes

1. Convention on Biological Diversity

72. Several targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are highly relevant to ocean and climate issues, including targets 8 (climate change and ocean acidification), 11 (nature's contributions to people), 1 (spatial planning), 2 (restoration), 3 (area-based conservation), 10 (sustainable production), and 16 (sustainable consumption). At its seventeenth meeting, the COP of the CBD will conduct a global review of collective progress in implementing the Framework, primarily based on national reports and a global progress report.[9]

73. As of 7 May 2026, 130 CBD Parties have submitted seventh national reports, and 160 Parties have submitted 395 national targets related to target 8.[10] Analysis of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national targets (CBD/SBI/6/INF/5), which was based on 315 national targets related to target 8, indicated a stronger focus on the elements of target 8 related to climate change impacts rather than those of ocean acidification. While approximately 36% of Parties fully addressed minimizing the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity in their national targets, 56% of Parties did not address this element. These figures include both non-landlocked and landlocked Parties. Reported capacity needs included research on the impact of climate change, ocean acidification, vulnerable ecosystems and endemic species, and improved data collection on sea level rise.

74. In response to decision 16/22, the CBD Secretariat invited views on options for enhanced policy coherence and cooperation across the Rio conventions,[11] considered the matter in the Joint Liaison Group, and organized a technical information exchange in collaboration with those Secretariats.[12] Based on the submissions and discussions, options for enhancing policy coherence and cooperation across the Rio conventions were presented in document CBD/SBSTTA/27/4, and included, among others, the alignment of national strategies and plans and harmonization of planning, monitoring, reporting and review systems. While not a specific topic of discussion, the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus was a noted opportunity for further collaboration across the Rio conventions, which could include issues related to coastal ecosystems and broader land-sea interactions.

75. Further to that, recommendation 27/3 of the SBSTTA of the CBD on biodiversity and climate change requested the Executive Secretary of the CBD to organize technical information exchanges, in collaboration with the executive secretaries of the other Rio conventions and the current and incoming presidencies of the COPs of the three Rio conventions, to further discuss options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence and synergies across the Rio conventions, and to develop a multilevel road map with short, medium, and long-term actions on the above-mentioned options for enhancing policy coherence, as well as possible gaps and overlaps in existing national and international policies and coordination bodies that address the implementation of the Rio conventions, and to report its findings to Parties at the seventeenth meeting of the COP. The process is to build on identified "building blocks" that are equally relevant to leveraging the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus, including coherent national planning, monitoring and reporting, the use of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, and the importance of science-

[9] See CBD/SBI/REC/6/3 for more information.
[10] See the Online Reporting Tool: https://ort.cbd.int/.
[11] See notification 2025-005.
[12] See https://www.cbd.int/meetings/CC-OM-2025-01.

and knowledge-based policy making. Further information on the technical information exchanges is available in notification 2026-033.

76. In response to decision 16/17, the CBD Secretariat convened an expert workshop on scientific and technical work under the CBD relevant to marine biodiversity in ABNJ, held from 2 to 5 December 2025 in Bergen, Norway. The Co-Chairs' summary identified opportunities relevant to the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus and cooperation, including:[13]

(a) Strengthening national coordination mechanisms among biodiversity, fisheries, shipping, mining, and climate change authorities, in the context of the Framework and the Agreement under BBNJ;

(b) Cooperating across organizations on enhancing understanding of climate change impacts on marine biodiversity in ABNJ, including identifying key knowledge gaps in ABNJ related to the mesopelagic zone, benthic ecosystems, and climate change impacts;

(c) Developing/synthesizing guidance regarding the impacts of climate change on various types of open ocean and deep-sea ecosystems, and the use of climate-smart area-based monitoring tools, environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments

77. The above-mentioned processes under the CBD may support ongoing work under the UNFCCC on ocean and climate change by strengthening scientific and technical knowledge related to the ocean-biodiversity-climate nexus, enhancing policy coherence and cooperation across intergovernmental processes, improving national coordination, planning and reporting, and advancing knowledge and guidance on the impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity, including in the context of ABNJ. Furthermore, the CBD has developed an extensive body of work related to ocean-climate issues, including ocean acidification, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, restoration, and area-based conservation, comprising relevant tools and guidance that may further support work under the UNFCCC and its processes.[14]

2. Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations

78. **Relevant developments related to ocean–biodiversity–climate synergies and international cooperation.** The General Assembly consistently highlights the interlinkages between the ocean, climate change and biodiversity, expressing serious concern over current and projected impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on the marine environment, and stressing the urgency of action including through enhanced international cooperation. States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, are called upon to strengthen capacity-building in developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS, for mitigation, adaptation, and coastal protection, including through ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions.[15]

79. The entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement[16] has provided a framework for action to address the impacts of climate change on marine biological diversity in the vast areas beyond national jurisdiction, including, among others, acknowledging the need to address, in a coherent and cooperative manner, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation due to climate change impacts, and guided by an approach that builds ecosystem resilience, including to

[13] See the report of the workshop: https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/c9d5/fe18/50441e809bbf14941eb87a7d/mcb-ws-2025-01-02-en.pdf.

[14] See, for example, guidance notes and relevant resources that can assist implementation of Target 8: https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/8.

[15] A/RES/80/110, see *inter alia* preambular paragraphs, paragraphs 22, 203, 206.

[16] The text of the Agreement and relevant information are available at https://www.un.org/bbnjagreement/en.

adverse effects of climate change and ocean acidification, and maintains and restores ecosystem integrity, including carbon cycling services that underpin the role of the ocean in climate. The Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the BBNJ Agreement and the Convening of the First Meeting of the COP to the Agreement discussed cooperation and coordination with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies and decided, at its third session, to recommend to the COP, for consideration at its first meeting, a draft decision on arrangements to enhance cooperation with such instruments, frameworks and bodies. UNFCCC could be considered a relevant instrument in that context.

80. UN-Oceans[17] continues to facilitate inter-agency coordination and information exchange, including in relation to relevant climate change aspects. In January 2026, a meeting of UN-Oceans Principals was held on "Enhancing coordination, collaboration, and effectiveness in capacity-building through UN-Oceans". Discussions included the need for alignment of ocean action with global priorities, in particular under climate change and biodiversity frameworks, strengthening cross-mandate collaboration in capacity-building, and engaging diverse stakeholders. The meeting highlighted that integrated, cross-sectoral capacity-building is essential and that UN-Oceans is well positioned to help States translate global commitments into practical national and regional action by coordinating support, sharing expertise, and reducing duplication.

81. Established by the UN General Assembly, the Regular Process,[18] through its WOAs, provides a synthesis of the latest science available on the state of the world's ocean and relevant social, economic and cultural aspects. While the fourth cycle of the Regular Process has recently started, covering the period 2026–2030, the WOA III will be launched for the first time in the form of a WOA web platform on 8 June 2026. It will support the work of the international community on ocean- climate issues, ensuring a robust and integrated understanding of linkages, challenges, and solutions.

3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

82. The FAO, as a UN specialized agency leading international efforts to defeat hunger, is committed to building climate-resilient aquatic food systems, including through its Blue Transformation roadmap 2022–2030. The roadmap promotes sustainable growth of aquaculture as an essential mechanism to adapt to climate change, effective management of 100% of fisheries, and upgrading of aquatic food value chains benefiting from circular economy principles.[19]

83. Recognizing the critical role of fisheries and aquaculture in delivering climate solutions, many countries have identified the sector as a priority in their NDCs, as reflected in the co-facilitators' letter[20] and FAO's global NDC analysis.[21] To support NDC implementation, FAO has developed a collection of practical tools and data resources,

[17] UN-Oceans is the inter-agency mechanism to enhance, strengthen and promote coordination, coherence and effectiveness of the activities of the United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) on ocean and coastal issues.

[18] https://www.un.org/regularprocess/.

[19] FAO. 2022. Blue Transformation - Roadmap 2022–2030: A vision for FAO's work on aquatic food systems. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0459en.

[20] https://unfccc.int/documents/656037.

[21] Crumpler, K., Wybieralska, A., Roffredi, L., Tanganelli, E., Angioni, C., Prosperi, P., Umulisa, V., Dahlet, G., Nelson, S., Nuutinen, M., Duchelle, A., Schiettecatte, L.-S., Rai, N., Salvatore, M., Some, S., Ayimasse, F., Totin, E., Wolf, J. & Bernoux, M. 2025. Agrifood systems in nationally determined contributions – Global analysis. Rome, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6284en.

including the NDC-Fish[22] and NAP-Fish guidelines,[23] Aqua-Adapt (a tool for adaptation planning and implementation in aquaculture),[24] as well as quantitative climate data such as future projections on marine fish biomass[25] and mitigation potential assessment for inland fisheries.[26]

84. To strengthen means of implementation (including finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building) in support of stakeholders in the aquatic food sector, FAO is implementing a portfolio of field projects to enhance policy, governance, institutional, technological and financial capacity of countries and communities to adopt adaptation and mitigation solutions.[27] These projects are underway across Africa, Asia, Pacific, and Latin America & the Caribbean, with a focus on vulnerable regions and countries including SIDS. FAO is also developing a series of technical briefs on coastal hazards and adaptation for 41 SIDS worldwide, to identify the most prevalent climate-related hazards for prioritized adaptation action.

85. Finally, achieving resilient aquatic food systems capable of sustaining long term production calls for mainstreaming of biodiversity and climate considerations in fisheries, and fostering of ocean–biodiversity–climate synergies and international cooperation. These include ensuring continuity across key forums from the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues to the FAO COFI,[28] and processes under the BBNJ Agreement and CBD, to prevent duplication and enhance policy coherence. These synergies are also evident in FAO's strategies on climate change[29] and biodiversity.[30] FAO has published a document on the role of aquaculture in the implementation of the CBD's KMGBF[31] and one on capture fisheries is in preparation. Additionally, FAO's guide on fisheries and the BBNJ Agreement clarifies how fisheries and biodiversity governance intersect in ABNJ, providing practical guidance for fisheries stakeholders engaging in BBNJ processes that could also support stronger

[22] Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions, WorldFish, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, CARE, and Environmental Defense Fund. 2024. Integrating blue foods into national climate strategies: Enhancing nationally determined contributions and strengthening climate action. Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions. https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd2482en.

[23] Brugere, C. and De Young, C. 2020. Addressing fisheries and aquaculture in National Adaptation Plans. Supplement to the UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines. Rome, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/ca2215en.

[24] Soto, D. & Garcia Sampaio, F., eds. 2025. Aquaculture Adaptation Framework for Climate Change (Aqua-Adapt) – A tool to support the development and implementation of strategies to improve aquaculture's resilience to climate change. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Papers, No. 739. Rome, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6476en.

[25] Blanchard, J.L. & Novaglio, C., eds 2024. Climate change risks to marine ecosystems and fisheries – Projections to 2100 from the Fisheries and Marine Ecosystem Model Intercomparison Project. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper, No. 707. Rome, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1379en.

[26] Coates, D., Arthur, R., Bennett, A., Gondwe, E., Shrestha, R., Valbo-Jørgensen, J. 2025. The role and potential of inland fisheries in low-emission food production and climate change mitigation. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1284. Rome, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd4601en.

[27] https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/climatechange.

[28] https://www.fao.org/cofi/en.

[29] FAO. 2022. FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031. Rome. https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f6270800-eec7-498f-9887-6d937c4f575a/content.

[30] FAO. 2020. FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en.

[31] Bowser, L., Himes-Cornell, A., Buonfrate, C. & Behar, I., 2025. The role of aquaculture in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper, No. 726. Rome, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6408en.

integration of climate considerations in ABNJ governance.[32] FAO is also developing a set of good practice recommendations on climate-adaptive management of shared fish stocks governed by Regional Fishery Bodies , including Regional Fishery Advisory Bodies and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, noting that over 150 countries are members of one or more RFMO whose collective mandates cover all areas of ABNJ and 95% of fishing activities occurring therein.

4. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

86. The IOC welcomes the Dialogue's key role in supporting implementation of ocean-based measures. This is highly relevant to the mandate of the IOC as the only UN agency fully focused on the ocean and ocean related issues and with an aim to ensure that decisions relating to the ocean and climate are based on the best available science.

87. The IOC notes that Parties have referenced support for access to technologies, capacity-building needs, including strengthening data collection for ocean observation and monitoring systems, and deploying ocean-based technologies, all of which are key elements of the mandate of the IOC. Similarly, ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation, sit fundamentally within the IOC mandate and are priorities for IOC Member States.

88. IOC can support parties in two of the thematic areas identified in the NDCs:

(a) Building and sustaining coastal resilience and;

(b) Conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems including blue carbon sequestration.

89. This includes addressing implementation barriers such as:

(a) Lack of frameworks that enable the effective implementation MSP in multi-sectoral spaces through training provided through the IOC and EU initiative MSPGlobal and supporting Member States in defining robust sustainable ocean plans that provide nations the integrated governance framework to translate ocean-based climate solutions into concrete, quantified NDC commitments;

(b) Lack of comprehensive information on sea level rise and associated impacts through coordination of the Global Sea level observing System with an aim to establish expanded and sustained SLR measurements and Q/C networks, increasing curated database sets and organizing regional and sub-regional sea level data archeology workshops;

(c) Lack of integrated coastal ocean observing and predicting systems to address coastal challenges such as storm surge, climate impacts, coastal erosion, shipping/ports, marine heatwaves and carbon sequestration through the Global Ocean Observing System which delivers sustained ocean observations for coastal areas and key climate change indicators and he provision of data from a network of data centres and the OBIS;

(d) Lack of access up to date monitoring and baseline information for assessing the current state of blue carbon ecosystem and therefore their ability to act as NbS restricts inclusion of blue carbon in NDC commitments through coordination of coastal and ocean observations through GOOS and delivery of data systems such as OBIS. In addition, IOC has played a leadership role in coordinating exchange of information on monitoring and evaluation on blue carbon ecosystems through the International Partnership for Blue Carbon and Blue Carbon Initiative and providing guidance on approaches for aligning blue carbon action across global frameworks and commitments; and,

[32] FAO. 2026. Fisheries and the BBNJ Agreement – A guide. 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). Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7986en.

(e) Insufficient financing for actions on the ground and how to connect them with the local context. IOC has produced a blue carbon finance toolkit, available to all, that provides guidance on the various mechanisms and pathways for financing blue carbon ecosystems.

90. IOC stands ready to build capacity across:

(a) Integrated coastal ocean observing and predicting system to address coastal challenges: such as storm surge, climate impacts, coastal erosion, shipping/ports, marine heatwaves and carbon sequestration;

(b) Community access to information (on coastal system change, SLR) and capacity to respond and engage in planning and decision making that supports mitigation and adaptation, extreme event planning;

(c) Technical capacity and access to technology to measure and model SLR and generate ocean data and integration in management decisions, the institutional structures for cross sectoral coordination;

(d) Community access to information (on coastal system change, SLR) and capacity to respond and engage in planning and decision making that supports mitigation and adaptation, extreme event planning;

(e) Building science-driven, national-led sustainable ocean plans; and,

(f) Improving multinational cooperation and collaboration that allows for the exchange of community based best practices and knowledge on ocean carbon and blue carbon ecosystems.

91. In closing, IOC would like to highlight that preparations for an Island States Ocean Summit to be held in Tokyo, June are underway. The summit has an aim to identify priority actions that support the development of climate resilient sustainable ocean plans for strengthening coastal resilience with a focus on SIDS. This provides an opportunity to identify concrete opportunities for meeting the enabling conditions to deliver ocean-climate action, including the regulatory coherence to align ocean and climate mandates, the technical capacity to generate ocean data and integration in management decisions, the institutional structures for cross sectoral coordination, and targeted finance and investment mechanisms that support translating NDC commitments into on-the-ground action.

5. International Seabed Authority

92. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement entrust the International Seabed Authority (the Authority) with the mandate to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area and to coordinate and disseminate the results when available.[33] In 2020, the Authority adopted the Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research in support of the UN Ocean Decade (the action plan) providing a global framework to guide deep-sea research.[34]

93. The effects of climate change on the deep sea need further understanding. Additional research is needed to describe and predict the extent to which well-documented trends—such as ocean warming and acidification—affect deep-sea ecosystems, including through benthic–pelagic coupling. The ISA Secretariat is coordinating a new scientific initiative under the action plan aiming to strengthen the scientific basis for assessing cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of climate-related pressures and other anthropogenic stressors. This activity is conducted in collaboration with the joint GESAMP and co-sponsored by IMO,

[33] ISBA/27/A/L.1. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, art. 143 (2). 1994 Agreement, para. 5 (h).
[34] ISBA/26/A/4.

DOALOS, FAO and IOC/UNESCO. The results are expected to inform environmental impact assessments and spatial planning processes in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

94. Understanding patterns of biological diversity over time is crucial to distinguish natural variability from exogenous trends, including climate change. Through the SSKI under the action plan, the Authority is steadfast in advancing deep-sea biodiversity knowledge and enhancing access to deep-sea biodiversity data. SSKI provides a collaborative platform to accelerate new species descriptions, develop innovative tools and build capacity in deep-sea taxonomic research.[35] The "One Thousand Reasons" have awarded 16 grants to describe 200 deep-sea new species.[36] The new species data is integrated with WoRMS and the ISA DeepData database, and also shared globally through the IOC-UNESCO Ocean Biodiversity Information System. Together with more than 200,000 species records collected during environmental baseline surveys in areas under exploration contracts, this knowledge base contributes to regional and global biodiversity assessments and inform ocean governance.

6. UN Environment Programme

95. **Introduction.** As the leading UN authority on the environment, UNEP addresses the three planetary environmental crises of climate change, nature, land degradation, biodiversity loss and pollution and waste through integrated ocean governance. UNEP supports the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems while advancing climate resilience, sustainable ocean economies, and coherence across global environmental frameworks.

96. **Ocean-based thematic priorities in NDCs.** UNEP supports Member States in integrating ocean priorities into NDCs by translating ecosystem-based approaches into policy, finance, and programme implementation. This is demonstrated through the Regional Seas Programme, such as PROCARIBE+ under the Cartagena Convention and Blue Climate Action in the East Asian Seas under COBSEA. Furthermore, through initiatives such as the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, the SIDS Restoration Flagship, the Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework, the Small Grants Programme, and the One Ocean Finance Facility, UNEP promotes community-led nature-based solutions that strengthen reef resilience, support blue carbon ecosystems, enhance sustainable livelihoods, and advance scalable climate resilience actions in vulnerable coastal regions.

97. **Means of implementation.** UNEP supports countries in implementation through catalytic and blended finance, making flagship projects safer and more attractive for investment, alongside targeted SGP and technical capacity building assistance for institutions and local communities. Through the RSP, UNEP provides technical assistance on ICZM, MSP, MPAs and OECMs as exemplified under the Abidjan, Nairobi, and Cartagena Conventions, and COBSEA, in mainstreaming marine and coastal ecosystems into NBSAPs.

98. UNEP applies ocean science and monitoring to guide decision-making and programme formulation, while convening governments, communities, the private sector, and partners to coordinate and scale climate-resilient ocean solutions and address the financing gap to support community-led action, eco-entrepreneurship, practical climate adaptation and mitigation action and readiness for larger-scale climate finance to build a resilient society and ecosystems.

99. **Ocean–biodiversity–climate synergies and international cooperation.** UNEP promotes synergies across the MEAs, the KMBGF, the BBNJ Agreement, and the UN Decades by aligning ocean, climate, and biodiversity efforts through COP decisions, strategic frameworks, and various platforms, including the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2026–

[35] ISA Website SSKI homepage. Donors include the Republic of Ireland, People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), the Portuguese Republic and the Republic of India, joining SSKI's founding donors, the European Union, the Republic of Korea and the French Republic.

[36] https://www.isa.org.jm/news/call-for-taxonomy-projects-to-describe-deep-sea-species/.

2029), to strengthen cooperation, policy coherence, science-based action and enhance synergy for implementation of climate and ocean national and global commitments. Through shared data, improved monitoring, and coordinated implementation, reporting and verification, global, regional and national restoration efforts, resources mobilization, UNEP strengthens ocean governance, supports community-led action, and promotes resilience and investment-ready approaches.

7. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

100. **Ocean-based thematic priorities in the NDCs.** Recent assessments show that while ocean-based climate action is increasingly reflected in NDCs, gaps remain in both scope and depth. Many countries, including in Asia and the Pacific, have begun integrating ocean-related measures (such as blue carbon, coastal resilience, and maritime decarbonization) into their NDCs, reflecting growing recognition of the ocean-climate nexus. However, these commitments are often insufficiently detailed, lacking clear targets, implementation pathways, and measurable indicators, which limits their impact.

101. In addition, NDCs do not provide a full picture of national ambition, as key actions are sometimes developed outside these frameworks, for instance through national policies, biodiversity strategies, or sectoral plans. This fragmentation creates challenges for tracking progress and ensuring coherence across climate and ocean agendas. Strengthening ocean-based actions in NDCs, while aligning them with broader national plans and initiatives, is therefore critical to unlock their full potential.

102. **Means of implementation.** Accelerating ocean-based action within NDCs faces several challenges, particularly in ambition, coherence, and implementation. Ocean-related measures are often underdeveloped, with limited quantification, weak cross-sector integration, and insufficient alignment with biodiversity and ocean governance frameworks. This is compounded by gaps in data, methodologies, and monitoring systems, especially for emerging areas such as blue carbon, making it difficult to set robust targets.

103. Institutional fragmentation is another key barrier, as responsibilities for ocean, climate, and biodiversity policies are often spread across multiple agencies, hindering coordination. In addition, constraints in finance, technology, and capacity-building continue to slow progress, particularly in developing countries.

104. Addressing these challenges will require stronger technical guidance, enhanced international and regional cooperation, increased investment, and better alignment between NDCs and national strategies to ensure coherence and scalability.

105. In Asia and the Pacific, Member States have recently launched the voluntary Initiative for Regional Cooperation on Ocean-based Climate Action, aimed at strengthening regional cooperation while considering national circumstances. Such regional initiatives could be widely replicated as an effective response to the challenges posed by fragmented governance.

106. **Ocean–biodiversity–climate synergies and international cooperation.** International cooperation is essential to harness the synergies between ocean protection, biodiversity conservation, and climate action. A key element of such cooperation lies in the implementation of the GBF's 30x30 target. Advancing this objective not only supports the effective delivery of the GBF but also contributes directly to climate mitigation efforts, as well-managed marine protected areas can act as significant carbon sinks. Moreover, this target has strong relevance for areas beyond national jurisdiction, as its implementation can extend to the high seas, thereby fostering collective action at the global level. In this context, the Kunming Biodiversity Fund is a key initiative supporting this approach. ESCAP is leading the implementation of a dedicated KBF-funded ocean project to advance the 30x30 target across Asia and the Pacific, working closely with the COBSEA to strengthen regional coordination and impact.

8. United Nations Office for Project Services

107. UNOPS welcomes the 2026 Dialogue's shift from ambition to delivery. Under our Strategic Plan 2026–2029, we are committed to expanding the implementation capacity of our partners to realize ocean-based climate solutions.

108. **Regarding ocean-based thematic priorities in NDCs,** UNOPS highlights the necessity of operationalizing NDC 3.0 targets through integration into UNSDCF. The Ocean-climate nexus is cross-cutting, and delivery hinges on mainstreaming ocean-related priorities across national development plans. UNOPS works with partners to identify and implement impactful solutions, aligned with national priorities. Through the UNOPS-hosted NDC Partnership, we deliver more integrated NDCs and support countries in turning NDCs into projects and programs. While ocean-based solutions can provide up to one-third of the emissions reductions needed to achieve climate goals, current NDC Partnership engagement on ocean-related priorities has largely focussed on the protection and restoration of coastal zones, with scope to further strengthen mitigation-related opportunities. Significant potential remains for countries to integrate blue carbon into national greenhouse gas inventories and investment plans to unlock dedicated climate finance.

109. **On Means of Implementation,** UNOPS emphasizes the need to match finance with operational capacity to deploy it. This involves moving from finance access to country-led deployment by converting ocean-related NDC priorities into costed, sequenced, and implementation-ready pipelines aligned with national development plans. The CVF–V20 CPPs, supported by the UNOPS-managed CVF–V20 Joint Multi-Donor Fund, offer a model for country-led climate investment planning. Equally important is building implementation capacity and strengthening country-led systems that deliver ocean-based NDC measures in practice, using country platforms to improve interministerial coordination, while aligning partners and investment pipelines to connect national priorities with local implementation. UNOPS also emphasizes a focus on country-driven ocean technology deployment by linking NDCs, NAPs, CPPs, Technology Needs Assessments, national development plans and innovation systems with adequate matchmaking, project preparation, finance, and implementation support.

110. **On Ocean–biodiversity–climate synergies and international cooperation**, UNOPS highlights the need for integrated governance mechanisms to realize the synergies. UNOPS supports the integration of coastal and marine natural capital in NDCs through replicable projects, such as the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS PROCARIBE+ Project, which facilitates such "blue" NDCs across Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize, and Jamaica. These efforts are reinforced by multi-level, nested ocean governance initiatives, including the Wider Caribbean Ocean Coordination Mechanism. This mechanism advocates for an integrated ocean-climate-biodiversity agenda, connecting regional Strategic Action Programmes for resilient blue economies with national Sustainable Ocean Plans and Blue NDCs.

9. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

111. In relation to the ocean dialogue, the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (the 2001 Convention) plays a key role in highlighting and safeguarding the cultural heritage of the oceans. Tangible and intangible MUCH, as well as the partially and soon-to-be underwater heritage, should indeed be better included in ocean policy and ocean frameworks and recognised as a form of long-term ocean knowledge infrastructure. From shipwrecks and submerged landscapes to coastal heritage systems, these cultural archives and havens of biodiversity contain unique historical records of environmental change, human–ocean interactions, and past climate variability. As such, they can significantly contribute to ocean and climate science and ocean policy, particularly within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), by complementing existing ocean observing systems with long-term socio-ecological data.

112. In June 2025, recognizing that existing regulatory, management and planning frameworks are inadequate to fully protect ocean cultural heritage, the Meeting of States Parties of the 2001 Convention encouraged the Secretariat to better integrate underwater cultural heritage into climate action and resilience strategies (MSP 10 / 5.6). With the 25th anniversary of the 2001 Convention taking place in 2026, alongside the first annual commemoration of the International Day for Underwater Cultural Heritage on 21 August, the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention is fostering new synergies within the ocean framework, in support of the ocean dialogue.

113. In line with the four-strand approach of the UNESCO White Paper on Underwater Cultural Heritage and Climate Change: Adaptation and Mitigation and the Thematic Paper – Culture and climate action: from margins to mainstream, Supported by international experts and advised by its partner network, the Secretariat of the 2001 Convention aims to develop a five-year strategy on MUCH and climate change adaptation that advances an integrated nature-culture approach in future coastal and ocean management. The initial implementation of the strategy will focus on (i) strengthening policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, (ii) developing and improving documentation of MUCH, (iii) supporting the integration of MUCH into the wider ocean and climate governance systems, and (iv) supporting public engagement, education and outreach.

10. The World Meteorological Organization

114. The WMO is the authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and ocean, the weather and climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources. The ocean provides essential natural resources to humankind and regulates the global climate. WMO contributes to ocean-related issues through the observation and monitoring of the ocean and climate; research on the climate and connected earth systems; development and delivery of marine and hydrological services including forecasts and early warnings for reducing the risk of disaster caused by marine and coastal hazards; capacity development and training; and the provision of science-based information and tools for decision making for policymakers and the general public at national, regional and global levels.

115. WMO's State of the Global Climate 2025 report (WMO-No. 1391) shows that the accumulation of excess energy in the climate system as measured by Earth's Energy Imbalance reached a record high over the period 2011-2025. Around 90% of that excess energy went into the ocean. Ocean heat content reached its highest observed level in 2025 in the 66-year observational record, global mean sea level was comparable to the record-high levels observed in 2024, and ocean acidification continued to increase. Antarctic Sea ice extent was the third lowest and Arctic sea ice extent was lowest or second lowest in the observed record. These ocean changes are impacting marine ecosystems and biodiversity, fuelled storms, increased coastal vulnerability, and created risks to livelihoods, settlements, health, well-being, food, and water security.

116. In response to these escalating climate impacts, WMO is strengthening support to countries in the development and implementation of climate action, particularly NDCs, by ensuring decisions are grounded in the best available climate science and services. Through collaboration with UN agencies, including UNDP and the UN Resident Coordinator system, and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, WMO supports the integration of climate data, risk information, and sector-relevant indicators into national planning and investment processes. This includes strengthened coordination through National Frameworks for Climate Services and enhanced climate finance readiness through a stronger scientific basis for climate investment proposals.

117. WMO continues to advance the implementation of the UN EW4All initiative by strengthening end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems, including meteorological, hydrological, marine and coastal related services. Through improved observations, forecasting capabilities, impact-based warnings and international coordination mechanisms,

WMO supports Members in enhancing preparedness, resilience and climate adaptation, particularly for vulnerable coastal and ocean-dependent communities.