THREATS TO OUR OCEANS
COMMON PROBLEMS - JOINT SOLUTIONS
Side Event - Regional Forum for Sustainable Development UNECE
Tuesday, 25 April 2017, 1:20 - 2:50, Conference Room XXII, Palais des Nations

Over 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by Oceans – connecting all regions. Oceans are home to 80% of the world's biodiversity. About half of the Earth's population lives in coastal regions. The Oceans produce over 50% of the oxygen in the atmosphere.

Still, the world's oceans, and the communities that depend on them, are under immense and unprecedented human pressures. Sea level rise and natural disasters not only affect livelihoods but threaten human security. Destructive, illegal and unsustainable fishing practices deplete fish populations and degrade their habitats and spawning grounds. The integrity and resilience of key ecosystems such as coral reefs and other ocean life are threatened by rising temperatures, depletion and pollution of terrestrial water flows, over-fishing, and ocean acidification. Mining activities, pollution and plastic debris threaten marine ecosystems and species, destroy life and jeopardize the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the long term.

This side event will present the key role Oceans play for human well-being and discuss some of the most critical threats to our Oceans, including the emerging threat of microplastics. It will be an opportunity to look at some of the important work the global community is doing to tackle these issues and provide a platform for discussion of the necessary national, regional and international policy framework.

Speakers

Welcoming remarks
Daniel Blockert
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Sweden
Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director
Policy and Programme Group, IUCN

The challenges faced by oceans and possible responses
Focus SDG 14.1: Microplastics in the Oceans
Carl Gustaf Lundin, Director
Global Marine and Polar Programme, IUCN

Focus SDG 14.4/6: FLUX Standard for sustainable fisheries management
Maria Ceccarelli, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section
Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Policy Response 1: Monaco
Isabelle Rosabrunetto
Director General of the Ministry of External Relations and Cooperation

Policy Response 2: Portugal
Dr Joao Pina de Morais
Trade and Economic Affairs
Permanent Mission of Portugal

Policy Response 3: France
Philippe Ramet
Environment Counselor
Permanent Mission of France

Discussion

Closing remarks
Carl Gustaf Lundin