



## **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**

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##### **Welcoming remarks**

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

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##### **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

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###### **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)

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###### **Policy Response 1: Monaco**

Isabelle Rosabrunetto  
Director General of the Ministry of External Relations and Cooperation

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###### **Policy Response 2: Portugal**

Dr Joao Pina de Morais  
Trade and Economic Affairs  
Permanent Mission of Portugal

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###### **Policy Response 3: France**

Philippe Ramet  
Environment Counselor  
Permanent Mission of France

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###### **Discussion**

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###### **Closing remarks**

Carl Gustaf Lundin

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