



To: Ms Isabela Cunha, United Nations (cunhai@un.org)

Input from KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Södertörn University, both Stockholm, Sweden, to the UN OCEAN CONFERENCE, 2017

Proposal for an additional theme for partnership dialogues: Marine Governance

Background

We observe that the current set of seven specified themes for partnership dialogue largely address the challenges of SDG 14 through discussions on opportunities and problems linked to particular sectors (such as fisheries) or specific sources of environmental risk (pollution, acidification). Obviously, this rather traditional sectoral and issue area setup is pragmatic and may well form the basis for constructive dialogue and learning on specific issues of concern. However, given the clear insight from science that sustainable governance of oceans and coastal areas is a fundamentally complex, uncertain and ambiguous challenge, with numerous interdependencies between sectors and issues, we find this parallel 'silo setup' rather surprising and far from in line with the ecosystem approach to management.

Proposal

As a complement, we propose the introduction of an additional partnership dialogue theme that specifically focuses on issues relating to integration and coherence over several sectors and SDG 14 targets. In doing so, common strategies and principles for sustainable ocean governance can be elaborated, and issues relating to trade-offs can be addressed in line with the ecosystem approach to management. We argue that there is credible and well-documented evidence from the research on marine and ocean governance that recognising deliberation and management of the referred interdependencies is crucial if societies are to better address the challenges linked to SDG 14, not least if done in a context-specific, just and legitimate manner.

This proposal falls well in line with the 'Zero Draft' declaration, which states that '*We underline the integrated and indivisible character of all Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda*' (S3) and '*We stress the need for an integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach*' (S4).

We are happy to provide further input on e.g. guiding questions for a partnership dialogue if one is set up in line with this proposal.

If this proposal is not taken up we would like to urge the organisers to make sure by other means that issues of integrative character are addressed in all seven dialogues specified.

Yours Sincerely,

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