

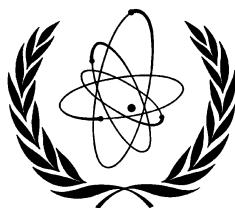
IAEA STATEMENT

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

**SDG 14 and interlinkages with other SDGs –
Life below Water**

United Nations Headquarters, New York

7 July 2022



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

SDG 14 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Life below Water

Thursday, 7 July 2022 – 15.00–17.00 hrs

Mr Chairperson,

The IAEA is a scientific and technical organization at the heart of the nuclear field, with 175 Member States. For more than 60 years, the IAEA's laboratories in Monaco - unique research facilities within the United Nations system - have been the centre for the study of marine environmental challenges through nuclear techniques, monitoring and assessing the impact of a wide range of pollutants in the marine environment, from mercury, which can cause serious seafood safety issues, to organic pollutants released by catastrophic events such as oil spills.

Nuclear and isotopic techniques can also be used to study the impact of ocean acidification on marine organisms, providing a unique window into the process behind ocean changes. In response to the need for increased international coordination and collaboration on ocean acidification, the IAEA has launched the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC) at the UN Rio+20 conference in 2012, to facilitate international activities on ocean acidification science, capacity building and communication.

Last year, the IAEA launched the Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) to assist countries in integrating nuclear techniques in their efforts to address challenges of plastic pollution, including through tracking and quantifying the movement and impact of microplastic particles in the environment , so as to allow for a better understanding of microplastics' abundance and effects on organisms, as well as to evaluate any additional contamination risks from associated pollutants.

As challenges such as ocean acidification and marine plastic pollution mount, the IAEA continues to enhance its network of partnerships and collaboration in support of its Member States. The UN Oceans Conference which just concluded has underscored that none of us operates in isolation: global issues require global coordination. The IAEA collaborates with its Member States, with its sister organizations within the UN system, and with regional and national organizations with a view to maximise the complementary contribution of nuclear science and technology, towards its integration into a holistic solution.

We look forward to expanding and deepening that commitment today and in the years to come.

I thank you.