

Input for the 2025 High-level Political Forum
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

1. Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.

Multiple and interconnected crises are having profound and interrelated effects on the ability to achieve SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17. Biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change are having continued significant effects on ocean health and resilience, and on the ocean's capacity to be a source of solutions to the climate crises. Poor ocean health—for example, through increased marine pollution or biodiversity loss—affects human health, although knowledge on many of the linkages and potential solutions is lacking. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the inability to achieve SDG14, for example, in relation to the effects of ocean hazards or their marginalized position in small-scale fisheries. Women and girls are also less well represented in the generation of knowledge and solutions to address the challenges facing SDG implementation, as reflected, for example, in the low proportion of female ocean scientists. While in many contexts, the ocean provides a potential foundation for sustainable economic development, competition for marine resources and marine space is increasing and, unless well managed, will underpin the achievement of SDG8. Partnerships across society—from the scientific community, civil society, government, and industry—are essential to the co-design and co-delivery of ocean knowledge to inform policy, resource management, and decision-making, for example, in relation to the development of inclusive and equitable marine spatial plans, development of national policy and action on biodiversity or climate adaptation, and to dismantle barriers to the full and inclusive engagement of marginalized groups (including women and girls) in science-based sustainable ocean management to underpin economic development.

2. Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

- Increasing levels of collaboration between the scientific community, industry, and government to unlock and share data to contribute to policy and decision-making, including, for example, in the areas of seabed mapping and ocean observations.
- Increasing commitments to sustainable management of national EEZs and the development of sustainable ocean-based economies, for example, through the development of Sustainable Ocean Plans as a multi-sectoral policy framework that can address competing demands on the ocean space and foster inclusivity of all societal actors.
- The development of multi-hazard early warning systems that can enhance community

preparedness and reduce response times in relation to a range of coastal and ocean hazards.

3. Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.

- Science-based ecosystem based management addressing inter-related challenges of marine biodiversity loss, marine pollution, and the direct and indirect effects of climate change, and that integrates components of community education and engagement as a means of inciting behavior change.
- Use of enhanced digital connectivity and AI to analyze and synthesize large ocean related data sets—including datasets from public and private sources—and render them accessible within shorter time periods to policy and decision makers.
- Enhanced collaboration between the scientific community, industry, and government in the development and implementation of innovative solutions in sectors influencing transition to sustainable ocean management, including, for example, ocean-based renewable energy, shipping, and fisheries, that adopt a net-positive biodiversity approach and is planned to reduce conflicts in the use of marine spaces and marine resources.

4. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Coordination and implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as a UN-wide convening framework to accelerate the generation and uptake of ocean science and knowledge for decision-making and policy.
- Support to Member States to develop and implement science-based Sustainable Ocean Plans to underpin development of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable ocean-based economies in line with the commitments of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and the 100% Alliance.

5. Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.

- Importance of ocean science and knowledge to underpin development of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable ocean-based economies.
- Need for increased investment in infrastructure to expand and sustain global systems for ocean

observations and data to underpin new scientific knowledge, as well as to enhance forecasting and prediction of ocean-related hazards for increased resilience, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction.

- Need for increased investment in individual and institutional capacity development, leveraging regional cooperation and South/South and North/South cooperation, and stronger processes to ensure that timely and relevant ocean science and knowledge inform decision-making and policy.