

UN-OHRLLS Contribution to Secretary-General’s Report on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea

“The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”.

It is the task of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to ensure that the law of the sea is applied in a manner that is consistent with the principles of justice and equity, and that it is applied in a manner that is consistent with the principles of sustainable development and the common interest of mankind.

Background

OHRLLS is mandated with supporting the implementation of the three internationally agreed programmes of actions for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, respectively the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the Vienna Programme of Action VPoA), and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. All three programmes the contribution of science, technology and innovation to poverty alleviation, promotion of structural transformation and sustainable development.

SDG 14.7 calls for strengthening ocean science in developing countries, in particular in SIDS and LDCs including increase in scientific knowledge, development of research capacity and transfer of marine technology. These targets reflect the commitments made in SAMOA Pathway as well as the Istanbul Programme of Action.

SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs require and need to be supported in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

and the importance of Capacity Building and Marine Technologies Transfer to SIDS to Support Sustainable Development.

The EGM made recommendations related to capacity building and technology transfer to SIDS; enhanced cooperation and effective implementation relevant frameworks for marine science and transfer of marine technology to SIDS. The recommendations emphasizes the need to develop targeted SIDS capacities and scientific know-how on marine science, research and technology and (ii) to capture SIDS traditional knowledge as a major resource for tackling climate change, resilience building and developing adaptation strategies.

The Report also underscores that marine scientific data and information collected, including in particularly those collected in areas under SIDS national jurisdiction, should be carried out pursuant to the provisions of UNCLOS and Article 244 in particular, and that the transfer of knowledge resulting from marine scientific research be disseminated to SIDS.

For full set of recommendations and Report of the EGM see:
http://unohrlls.org/UserFiles/EGM_report_recommendations_fin.pdf

LDCs

LDCs, especially coastal and small island LDCs, require strengthened capacity on ocean science, especially as related to implementing SDG14. This includes observation systems, scientific equipment, laboratory capacity and capabilities, training, analysis of human impact on marine ecosystems, and scientific research and assessments, among others.

Strengthened support is needed to address the range of steps in mitigating pollution of marine eco-systems including from land-based activities. This includes support for carrying out impact assessments, assessing the science-policy interface, and development of appropriate

LLDCs

The oceans are common heritage to mankind and therefore their conservation and sustainable use are important to all including the landlocked states. Initiatives to implementation of SDG 14 should therefore include the landlocked countries.

The participation of the landlocked countries in ocean science is important but these countries are still marginalized from taking part in ocean science and other related activities. This is in part due to their lack lack