Data-Driven Solutions for Marine Pollution: Strengthening National Waste Management Systems through Evidence-based Policy and Finance

UNOC3 SIDE EVENT
CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

Wednesday, 11 June 2025, 14:00-15:15 (75 minutes)
Venue: Room 1, Blue Zone, Port of Lympia
UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France

BACKGROUND

Plastic pollution has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, posing significant risks to ecosystems, economies, and human health. An estimated 11 million metric tons of plastic waste enter the ocean annually—a figure expected to nearly triple by 2040 if no meaningful interventions are made. The burden of this crisis falls disproportionately on developing countries, where limited waste management infrastructure and inadequate regulatory systems compound the problem. As plastic waste flows into rivers and coastal waters, it severely threatens marine biodiversity.

Tackling marine plastic pollution requires a systems approach that links land-based waste management with ocean health, supported by accurate data, coherent policy, and adequate financing. However, many low-income and developing countries face persistent data gaps, institutional weaknesses, and financial constraints that hinder the development and implementation of effective waste reduction strategies. These limitations not only prevent targeted policy action but also restrict the ability to track progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), and SDG 14 (Life below water).

In line with UNOC 03 (A/78/880), land-based sources of pollution and plastic debris density require special attention. Developing countries, particularly those with limited waste infrastructure, bear the brunt of a rising tide of plastic pollution entering waterways. Inadequate data limits the reach and impact of policy for many low-income countries. Addressing this issue requires identifying national gaps in capacity, policies, and finance for effective waste management.

This event focuses on innovations in data-driven policy, financing and collective action to stop pollution at source. Success cases presented will focus on improving waste systems to stop marine pollution and ensuring quality data to better pinpoint policy interventions and finance. Speakers will include ministers and cases from Member States cooperating with WEF-GPAP, GGGI and UNOSD to implement new data collection mechanisms and innovative financing instruments for improving waste systems and reducing marine pollution in line with SDG 14.1

(By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution).

The high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the 2025 UN Ocean Conference) will be co-hosted by France and Costa Rica and held in Nice, France, from 9 – 13 June 2025.

As part of its aim to strengthen UN Member States' capacity to plan and undertake integrated sustainability transformation especially on SDGs 11,12 and 14, UNOSD will submit a Voluntary Ocean Commitment (VOC) to support developing countries in creating data-driven policies and address capacity gaps to tackle marine pollution at source through its new Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System developed with Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP).

OBJECTIVES

This side-event held under the framework of at the UN Ocean Conference aims to:

- Share insights on the latest data-driven approaches to understanding and addressing marine plastic pollution, with a focus on the challenges faced by developing countries with limited waste infrastructure and data-limited contexts.

- Present practical examples of integrated policy solutions and outcome based financing mechanisms being implemented to prevent plastic pollution at source.

- Discuss national experiences and collaborative models that leverage data, innovation, and capacity-building to transform waste management systems and advance circular economy practices aligned with SDGs 11, 12, and 14.

- Inspire collective action by governments, development partners, and the private sector to invest in scalable, evidence-based strategies and technologies aimed at reducing land-based sources of marine pollution.

AGENDA

Time	Presentations & Speakers
Wednesday, 11 June 2025	
14:00-14:05	**Welcome Remarks** • Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head, United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, DESA (1min) • Ms. Clemence Schmid, Director, Global Plastics Action Partnership, World Economic Forum (1 min)
14:05-14:15	**Group Photo with Speakers**

14:15- 14:30	**High-level Statements** • H.E. Mr. Kang Do-Hyung, Minister of Fisheries and Ocean, Republic of Korea • Mr. Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction
14:30-15:10	**Panel Discussion** Chair: Ms. Clemence Schmid, Director, Global Plastics Action Partnership, World Economic Forum • Ms. Junu Shrestha, Senior Environmental Specialist, The World Bank Group • Ms. Ingvild Solvang, Director of Climate Action and Inclusive Development (CAID), GGGI • Ms. Janalezza Morvenna, Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) • Ms Tiana Eva Razafindrakoto, International Expert in Economic Diplomacy Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) • Mr. Nassim Oulmane, Chief, Natural Resources, Green and Blue Economy Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) **Q&A**
15:10-15:15	**Closing Remarks** H.E. Mr. Chung Keeyong, Ambassador for Climate Change. Republic of Korea

ORGANIZING PARTNERS

This side event is co-organized by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) under the Division for SDGs of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) with the Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of ROK, Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), the World Economic Forum Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Indian Ocean Commission