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5 TIPPING POINTS FOR A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE OCEAN BY 2030

Fully traceable sustainable seafood

Set sail for zero

Harnessing ocean electricity

Mapping the ocean

End waste entering the ocean



**Sustainable
Ocean Business**
Action Platform

“The ocean provides food, energy, water, jobs and economic benefits for people in every country, even those that are landlocked. It is a crucial buffer against climate change, and a massive resource for sustainable development. The health of our oceans and seas is inextricably linked with the health of our planet and all life on Earth.”



H.E. António Guterres

United Nations Secretary-General

Opening remarks to the Ocean Conference

5 June 2017

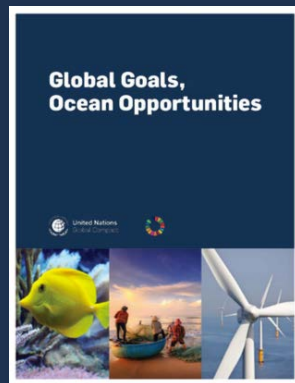
GLOBAL GOALS, OCEAN OPPORTUNITIES

Every second breath we take comes from the ocean. Connected to all life on this planet, the ocean is our greatest global common, uniting both people and nations. How we protect and manage the ocean will determine much of our success towards delivering the 17 Global Goals by 2030, and businesses that are connected to the ocean have a critical role to play.

As we approach 2020 and the decade of delivery for the Global Goals, we must leverage ocean sustainability, not only to protect the ocean itself, but to ensure people and planet can prosper and thrive. We have the knowledge, technology and means necessary to choose a trajectory of sustainable prosperity over a path of degradation and destruction. It is for us to decide and act — and act now.

It is for our generation to demonstrate the stewardship, leadership and determination required to find the common solutions for the future that we want, as envisioned in Global Goals.

The 2019 report *Global Goals, Ocean Opportunities*, produced in consultation with over 300 stakeholders, identified five tipping points that represent a set of tangible objectives to address ocean sustainability challenges.





FULLY TRACEABLE SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

Healthy and sustainable food for all

To achieve Goal 2: Zero Hunger and provide adequate nutrition for the estimated 815 million people currently food insecure, global food systems will need new growth and to adopt more sustainable practices.

Food harvested from the ocean has a critical role to play in creating a food system that provides nutrition to the global population, ensures decent work, and protects the environment. Ocean-harvested food can be produced with a relatively low carbon-footprint when compared to other sources of animal protein.

Sustainable fish and seafood are dependent on industry transparency and traceability across the value chain to prevent negative environmental and social impacts. One of the major challenges is illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which leads to biodiversity loss, pushes harvests past their natural carrying capacity, and is often associated with forced labour.

New technologies can allow for greater monitoring and control to prevent such violations and secure the value chain. Tracing methods can inform consumers about the origin and methods of production, even labour and human rights-related issues.

A global movement to increase traceable seafood represents a tipping point for fostering a sustainable and healthy ocean.



SET SAIL FOR ZERO

Global growth needs sustainable transport

The global shipping industry accounts for about 90 per cent of global trade. Going forward, the world needs more global trade with a smaller environmental footprint.

Public-private partnerships to decarbonize shipping supply chains are a key factor in securing sustainable global trade and growth.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has set ambitious targets to reduce GHG emissions by 50 per cent for ships before 2050. Technological advancements in vessel design and engineering, greater access to alternatives to fossil fuels and digital connectivity will enable a market shift towards zero-emission shipping.

New technologies and operational competences can drive this change. There is already a sharp rise in the number of zero-emission ships operating short sea. Alternative fuel mix and solutions are also in use at some companies. These solutions exist in the market but they need to be mainstreamed.

More green ships on a blue ocean represent a tipping point for fostering a sustainable and healthy ocean.

A photograph of several offshore wind turbines in the ocean. The turbines are white with three blades each, mounted on orange and yellow support structures. The sky is a clear, pale blue, and the water is a deep blue. The perspective is from a low angle, looking up at the turbines, with one turbine in the foreground being particularly prominent.

HARNESSING OCEAN ELECTRICITY

Endless energy sources

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns of severe consequences of a failure to prevent global warming exceeding 1.5°C. To limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, emissions need to halve by 2030 and drop to net-zero by the middle of the century to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Electric power from ocean wind, currents, tides and waves will play a vital role. Today, offshore wind supplies 0.2 per cent of global electricity, but is forecasted to have the potential to at least match the energy supplied by offshore oil in 2050. The use of renewable forms of energy must increase significantly.

For renewable energy to be fully implemented, the market needs storage technologies with more capacity. In the past decade, increased global investment has allowed for renewable energy capacity to roughly quadruple, according to the UN report Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2019.

Ocean electricity production can provide affordable and reliable energy for all and represents a tipping point for fostering a sustainable and healthy ocean.



MAPPING THE OCEAN

Lots of data and resources, but limited insights

It is estimated that only about 5 per cent of the ocean has been explored by mankind. The vastness of the ocean, as well as the associated costs of chartering vessels and deploying technologies to collect data over time, have limited the scope of marine research.

Meeting the rising demands of a growing population may require greater extraction of resources from the ocean. One area in which ocean resources may be most valuable is in seabed minerals. Deep-seabed deposits contain a high concentration of minerals such as cobalt, copper and nickel. As the world looks to a low-carbon future, raw materials such as these will be able to power batteries and replace fossil fuels.

Responsible stewardship of this common and understanding how the ocean is changing requires extensive data. Ocean-based industries can collaborate with the United Nations in marine data collection through strong partnerships and sharing of knowledge. The UN Decade of Ocean Science will be a key framework for mapping the ocean.

Mapping the ocean and sharing insights represents a tipping point for fostering a sustainable and productive ocean.

A sea turtle is shown swimming underwater, carrying a large, crumpled blue plastic bag in its mouth. The turtle's head and front flippers are visible, and the bag is partially submerged, floating in the water. The background is a deep blue ocean with some light reflecting off the surface.

END WASTE ENTERING THE OCEAN

Managing waste in a modern world

A large amount of plastic debris has accumulated in the ocean and become the most visible sign of modern society's environmental footprint. Visually striking images of vast amounts of ocean plastic pollution, as well as the harms inflicted as marine species ingest plastics, have increased awareness of the issue and made it a key focus of public attention.

Additionally, run-offs from agriculture and poor wastewater management continue to be a major source of ocean pollution.

Since eliminating plastic would negate the many benefits the material has provided, the harms of plastic pollution must be mitigated with responsible consumption and improved waste management. Waste management is neither costly nor technically difficult.

Businesses have a key role to play and a great responsibility to innovate solutions and adopt practices that "close the loop" and promote a circular economy. By reducing their environmental footprint and use of virgin plastics in production, and addressing waste management within their industries, businesses can support ocean sustainability.

Ending waste entering the ocean will contribute to keeping our ocean clean and represents a tipping point for fostering a healthy and productive ocean.



ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

As a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Launched in 2000, the mandate of the UN Global Compact is to guide and support the global business community in advancing UN goals and values through responsible corporate practices. With more than 9,500 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and more than 60 Local Networks, it is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world.

For more information, follow **@globalcompact** on social media and visit our website at **unglobalcompact.org**.



United Nations
Global Compact