

Contribution by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to the Secretary-General's background note for the high-level 2020 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

**Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

*ICTs can play a significant role in the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans – notably through improved monitoring and reporting which leads to increased accountability. Satellite-based monitoring delivers timely and accurate data on a global basis, while local sensors deliver on the spot updates in real-time. Big data can be used to analyse short- and long-term trends in terms of biodiversity, pollution, weather patterns and ecosystem evolution, and to plan mitigation activities. Mobile devices – and especially mobile broadband enabled devices – help individuals to access information concerning the oceans, and to take an active role in discussing environmental issues and monitoring adherence to conservation targets.*

**ITU contributes to SDG14 Targets 14.1, 14.2, 14.a:**

- Target 14.1 and 14.2: Spectrum and standards provided by ITU for Earth observation systems are a key enabler to monitor, conserve and use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. In particular, understanding the forces behind changing weather patterns which requires mapping variations in ocean surface conditions worldwide and the use of collected data to develop and run powerful models of ocean behaviour;

Target 14.a - Spectrum and standards provided by ITU for GNSS, sea drones and satellite oceanic observations, are an essential enabler to Increase scientific knowledge on the state of oceans and marine resources; - ITU, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established a Joint Task Force (JTF) in late 2012 after Workshops in Rome (2011) and Paris (2012). The JTF is tasked with developing a strategy and roadmap that could lead to enabling the availability of submarine repeaters equipped with scientific sensors for ocean and climate monitoring and disaster risk reduction (tsunamis). It will also analyse the potential renovation and relocation of retired out-of-service cables in this realm. With the installation of new trans-ocean and regional telecommunication cable systems equipped with sensors, a global network could be established providing decadal real-time data for ocean climate monitoring and disaster mitigation (particularly from tsunamis).