

Inputs from the UN Global Compact to the Background Note for the Preparatory Meeting of the 2020 United Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 14

2. Challenges and opportunities

No specific inputs to this section

3. Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation

The Decade of Ocean Science will have a major role to play here. One mission of the Decade is to mobilize the private sector to actively contribute in collecting data and share them with science. The UN Global Compact and UNESCO-IOC are currently working a joint publication to raise awareness of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Decade) and draw attention to the roles for the private sector and research institutions in their delivery. Further, it will demonstrate the value of a strong private sector engagement in delivering on the Decade's objectives, including through public-private partnerships in international research projects.

4. Development of partnerships

Multistakeholders partnerships is at the core of the work and the mission of the UN Global Compact. As stated in the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/254 "Towards global partnerships: A principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners", the UN General Assembly recognizes "the vital role the UN Global Compact Office continues to play with regard to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to partner strategically with the private sector." It states that the UN Global Compact's activities are "in accordance with its General Assembly mandate to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community".

The UN Global Compact's Action Platform for Sustainable Ocean Business has, in consultation with more than 300 stakeholders worldwide, developed the [Sustainable Ocean Principles](#) in order to emphasize the responsibility of businesses to take necessary actions to secure a healthy and productive ocean.

The nine principles cover three areas: climate change, ocean health and productivity; governance and engagement; and data and transparency. Signatories confirm their endorsement of the principles and commit to integrating the framework provided for responsible business practices in the ocean.

The UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Principles can serve as a key commitment from the private sector at the UN Ocean Conference 2020. Companies will commit to integrate and assess in their global strategy their positive and negative impacts on the Ocean. This will serve as a "baseline" to operate in the ocean.

5. Possible themes for the interactive dialogues

The ocean is vital to the wellbeing and prosperity of humankind. To achieve the world community's ambitions as laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a need to expand our use of the ocean to produce food, energy, raw materials and transportation. Carrying out these activities in a sustainable manner will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. Ensuring a healthy ocean provides significant opportunities for business and global economic growth. As described in Goal 14 on Life Below Water, there is an urgent need to protect and restore the health of the ocean, which is rapidly deteriorating due to increasing temperatures, acidification, depletion of natural resources and pollution from land and sea. Businesses have a shared responsibility, alongside Government and civil society, to take necessary actions to secure a healthy ocean. Based on the «[Global Goals, Ocean Opportunities Report](#)», produced in consultation with over 300 stakeholders, the following [five tipping points](#) provide a set of tangible objectives to address ocean sustainability challenges:

- Fully traceable seafood – *Healthy and Sustainable Food for All*
- Set sail for zero – *Global Growth need Sustainable Transport*
- Ocean electricity – *Endless Energy Sources*
- Mapping the Ocean – *Lots of Data and Resources, but Limited Insights*
- Zero waste entering the ocean – *Managing Waste in a Modern World*

These “Tipping Points” can contribute to identify key themes for the Interactive Dialogues and help structure a clear framework for private sector's commitments at the Conference.