



Quadrennial Report for 2014 – 2017 of the International Coastal and Ocean Organization (ICO) as a non-governmental organization with observer status to the UN Economic and Social Council

1. A basic introduction to ICO

The International Coastal and Ocean Organization (ICO) is the secretariat of the Global Ocean Forum (GOF), which is an international, independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting good governance of the ocean, sustainable development for coastal and island peoples around the globe, and healthy marine ecosystems. The GOF was first mobilized in 2001 to help the world's governments place issues related to oceans, coasts, and small island developing States on the agenda of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. The Global Ocean Forum's mission is to advance the global ocean agenda toward sustainable development for the well-being of humanity, in the context of climate change. The Global Ocean Forum has built an inclusive and mutually-supportive global network of ocean policy leaders from 130 countries, facilitating cross-sectoral linkages, informal diplomacy, and goodwill among the ocean community.

2. Aims and purposes of ICO

The major goals of ICO/Global Ocean Forum are to:

- 1) Advance the global oceans agenda, supporting an approach of sustainable development focused on healthy ecosystems, coastal and island peoples, and equity by:
 - Promoting the implementation of international agreements related to oceans, coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), especially the goals emanating from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the 2012 Rio+20 Conference, the SDG14 and other ocean-related SDGs
 - Promoting international consensus-building on unresolved oceans issues, including oceans and climate issues, and improving the governance regime for ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction
 - Anticipating new ocean issues to facilitate forward-thinking policymaking and governance
- 2) Work as a catalyst to mobilize knowledge, resources, policy analysis, and organizational action to advance the global ocean agenda and to promote integrated oceans management
- 3) Foster an inclusive and mutually supportive global network of ocean policy leaders, and enhance the capacity of managers and decision makers to implement integrated oceans management
- 4) Work to ensure that ocean, coasts, and SIDS issues remain high on the political agenda at global, regional, and national levels
- 5) Mobilize public awareness on global issues related to oceans, coasts, and islands, and promote information sharing and dissemination.

3. Any changes with a significant impact

There have been no significant changes to report.

4. Contribution to the work of the UN

One of the goals of ICO is to facilitate the achievement of WSSD targets and Sustainable Development Goals related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS through policy analyses, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and public education and outreach.

1. ICO played an active role in the development of SDG14 through multi-stakeholder dialogues, consensus-building, and policy analyses as detailed in Section 7 below.
2. ICO has fostered cross-sectoral dialogue and analysis on issues in the management of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). It has been actively involved in a supportive role as part of civil society, in the BBNJ (biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction) process, during the meetings of the UN Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ Ad Hoc Working Group) and of the Preparatory Committee established by UN General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ PrepCom) meetings. ICO carried out the following:
 - Training at the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of regional and national leaders in ABNJ through the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program (two sessions: 15-21 January 2015 and 21 March 21-April 2, 2016)
 - Organization and conduct of five side events in various meetings in the BBNJ process (21 January 2015 at the 9th Meeting of the BBNJ Ad Hoc Working Group; 30 March 2016 at the BBNJ PrepCom1; 26 August 2016 at the BBNJ PrepCom2; 31 March 2017 at the BBNJ PrepCom3; and 17 July 2017 at the BBNJ PrepCom4)
 - Organization and conduct of two multi-stakeholder dialogues on capacity-building in ABNJ:
 - i. Workshop on Linking Global and Regional Levels in the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, 17-20 February 2015, Rome
 - ii. Workshop on Capacity Development to Improve the Management of ABNJ, 18-21 May 2016, Grenada
 - Preparation of a multi-author, multi-institutional effort *Policy Brief on Capacity Development as a Key Aspect of a New International Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)* (completed in 2018).
3. ICO has mobilized high-level political attention on critical ocean and climate issues in the context of the UN climate negotiations, serving to heighten political attention on previously-ignored ocean issues in this important global forum through the organization and conduct of Oceans Day at COP21, 4 December 2015, Paris; Oceans Action Days at COP22, 12 November 2016, Marrakesh; and Oceans Action Day at COP23, 11 November 2017, Bonn as well as annual reporting on *Assessing Progress on Ocean and Climate Action (2016-2017)*.

4. ICO has kept the global ocean targets (the WSSD, SDGs and other global goals) high on the agenda of ocean policy leaders from 130 countries through the Global Ocean Forum News and communications through the IISD Oceans-I and Climate-I mailing lists, facilitating cross-sectoral linkages, informal diplomacy, and goodwill among the ocean community, spurring analyses, policy dialogue and debate, and renewed political commitments.

5. Participation in meetings of the UN

ICO has participated in the following meetings:

1. Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG): Eighth Session, 3 Feb 2014 - 7 Feb 2014; Ninth Session, 3 Mar 2014 - 5 Mar 2014; Tenth Session, 31 Mar 2014 - 4 Apr 2014; Eleventh Session, 5 May 2014 - 9 May 2014; Twelfth Session, 16 Jun 2014 - 20 Jun 2014; Thirteenth Session, 14 Jul 2014 - 18 Jul 2014, United Nations Headquarters, New York
2. Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: COP 21, 30 November-12 December 2015, Paris; COP22, 7–18 November 2016, Marrakesh; COP23, 6–17 November 2017, Bonn
3. Development of an international legally-binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ process):
 - Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction: Seventh Meeting, 1-4 April 2014; Eighth Meeting, 16-19 June 2014; Ninth and last meeting, 20-23 January 2015, United Nations Headquarters, New York
 - Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction: First Session, 28 March – 8 April 2016; Second Session, 26 August – 9 September 2016; Third Session, 27 March – 7 April 2017; Fourth Session, 10 – 21 July 2017, United Nations Headquarters, New York
4. Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), 1-4 September 2014, Apia, Samoa
5. The UN Ocean Conference 5-9 June, 2017, United Nations Headquarters, New York

6. Cooperation with UN bodies

1. As a co-executing organization, ICO has cooperated with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the development and implementation of a Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project on *Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ*, as part of the GEF-funded Common Oceans ABNJ Program. ICO has also collaborated with UN DOALOS, IOC/UNESCO, UNEP, CBD Secretariat, and IMO mainly within the framework of this project. Collaborative activities included cross-sectoral workshops, high-level policy dialogues, training on ABNJ, global surveys on capacity-building, organization of ABNJ

communities of practice, preparation of policy briefs on capacity-building in ABNJ, development of an ABNJ web portal, and outreach to the media and the public..

2. ICO also collaborated with the UNFCCC Secretariat, FAO, IOC/UNESCO, and CBD Secretariat, in the organization and conduct of Oceans Day at COP21 (2015), Oceans Action Day at COP22 (2016), and Oceans Action Day at COP23 (2017) to advance the oceans and climate change agenda at the UNFCCC, and in the preparation of the ROCA Progress Report, *Assessing Progress on Ocean and Climate Action: 2016-2017*.
3. ICO collaborated with IOC/UNESCO in the organization and conduct of the Initial Working Meeting of the Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action (ROCA) on Advancing the Oceans and Climate Agenda for the Next Five Years held on May 22-23, 2017, UNESCO Paris.

7. Initiatives taken in support of the MDGs/SDGs

ICO had contributed towards the development of SDG14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) by organizing the Friends of the Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans and Seas and organizing side events during the OWG sessions. ICO also tracked member State statements presented at the 8th-12th sessions of the OWG to determine if the member State was 1) supportive of an SDG on oceans, 2) supportive of oceans but not explicitly in favor of an SDG on oceans, or 3) in favor of an integrated goal (as part of an ecosystems, biodiversity, or natural resources goal), based on the statements given at OWG sessions, statements posted online, as well as Earth Negotiation Bulletin (ENB) summary reports. This analysis was shared with member States and was thought by many to be useful in the reaching of final agreement on this issue.

ICO participated in the 2017 UN Ocean Conference through:

1. Organization and conduct of side events:
 - Side Event on Oceans, Climate Change, and Blue Economy held on Feb 13, 2017, during the preparatory meeting for the UN Ocean Conference (15-16 February 2017)
 - Side Event at the UN Ocean Conference (5-9 June 2017) on Oceans and Climate and Launch of the Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action (ROCA), held on June 8, 2017
2. Submission of a voluntary commitment, the Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action (ROCA), which is a multi-stakeholder initiative involving governments, international agencies, NGOs, scientific institutions, private sector, and subnational authorities to advance the oceans and climate agenda (especially in the UNFCCC, the UN Ocean Conference, and in other United Nations fora), and at the national level in all countries. ROCA was launched at the UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco. The ROCA works to implement the Strategic Action Roadmap on Oceans and Climate: 2016-2021, first discussed at the Oceans Day at COP 21 in Paris 2015, and then prepared in detail by 37 international experts throughout 2016 and highlighted at the Oceans Action Day at COP 22 Marrakech (12 November 2016). The Roadmap presents analyses and recommendations in six major areas: Central of role of oceans in regulating climate, mitigation, adaptation and Blue Economy, displacement, financing, and capacity development, for implementation in the next 5 years.

8. Additional information

Detailed information on the above ICO activities are available in the following websites:

Global Ocean Forum website: <https://globaloceanforum.com/>

Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action (ROCA) Initiative: <https://roca-initiative.com/>

Common Oceans ABNJ Program website:

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/projects/strengthening-capacity/en/>

ICO is dedicated to advancing the global agenda on oceans, coasts, and small island developing States through policy analyses, multistakeholder dialogues, and public education and outreach. ICO serves as the Secretariat of the Global Ocean Forum.

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