

OHRLLS contributions to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, as mandated by United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/239 titled Oceans and the Law of the Sea

of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular the SIDS and the LDCs.

Ocean partnership is a crucial component of capacity building for the sustainable development path of SIDS as stipulated in the SAMOA Pathway. Recognizing that SIDS have been particularly vulnerable to the impacts of COVID, with key ocean sectors such as coastal tourism and fisheries severely hit, OHRLLS has increased its efforts to strengthen partnerships and capacity building to promote sustainable blue economy transition pathways in the recovery from pandemic.

During the reporting period, through the work of the SIDS Partnership Framework and the SIDS-Global Business Network, UN-OHRLLS promoted opportunities for partnerships and collaboration between SIDS, including with the private sector for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, a series of webinars have been organized on partnership opportunities for sustainable blue economy transition and pandemic recovery.

The first was a forum on ocean industries in cooperation with the World Ocean Council in December 2020, the second on renewable ocean energy in cooperation with IRENA in March 2020, and in June 2021, the GBN is hosting two events on resilience and recovery of key industries in SIDS, in particular tourism in Caribbean and AIS SIDS and fisheries in Pacific SIDS.

OHRLLS is currently drafting an assessment report on partnerships to achieve SDG 14 on healthy oceans and to increase the benefits for SIDS in ocean industries. This report which is to be finalised in the second half of 2021, assesses public-private partnerships in, between, and beyond SIDS and will present recommendations for how the GBN can be more impactful in developing capacity and strengthening blue economies for SIDS.

Section XI Marine science

Underscoring the critical role of marine scientific research plays a critical r1 Tionessme,ÒÁ on iouIs, JF"z

In June 2020, UN-OHRLLS and ISA co-organized an Ambassadorial Briefing on “Equitable sharing of benefits from sustainable development of deep seabed resources – Enhancing opportunities for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS”. The Briefing contributed to raising general awareness on the critical issues currently under discussion within ISA particularly those that are of specific relevance for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. As such, emphasis was placed on the regulatory framework under development (Mining Code & development of a mechanism for the equitable sharing of benefits derived from deep seabed mining), the different environmental management initiatives currently in development and the role of ISA in ensuring the dissemination of research results for all humankind.

UN-OHRLLS collaborated with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO, on the Ocean Decade Virtual series to co-host a session titled “Fostering innovative ocean science partnerships for SIDS in the Ocean Decade” held on 7 December 2020.

Advocacy Efforts on impacts of climate change on the oceans and the cryosphere, to which low-lying islands, in particular small island developing States

UN OHRLLS, within its mandate on advocacy for SIDS, has organized and contributed to a range of meetings and events to raise the profile of the challenges faced by SIDS from climate change, many of which in cooperation with Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). This includes an event series on climate change and security for SIDS and LDCs, organized in cooperation with UN Department of Peacebuilding and Political Affairs on 8 April 2021. provides a platform to (i) highlight recent analysis of the nexus of climate-related security risks, including from rising sea-level and human rights in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including opportunities to engage with international human rights mechanisms, and (ii) share work underway by national governments and the United Nations to promote successful, human-rights based, climate-security related policies, and exchange good practices.