## Session 1 - Sustainability: Unlocking Opportunities for Blue and Green Economies

By 2030, ocean-based industries are expected to significantly outpace global economic growth, potentially reaching over \$3 trillion in value according to <u>the OECD</u>. The growth will be driven by sectors such as offshore wind, tidal and wave energy, aquaculture, cruise tourism, maritime surveillance, and marine biotechnology.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS), often referred to as 'large ocean states' due to their extensive exclusive economic zones (EEZs), stand to benefit considerably. These nations, stewarding vast ocean spaces, have begun to initiate innovative mechanisms to leverage their ocean resources for economic and climate resilience. Notable examples include Seychelles' launch of the world's <u>first sovereign blue</u> bond,