

UN-OHRLLS contribution to the SGs background note for the preparatory meeting of the high-level 2020 UN Conference to support the implementation of the SDG 14

i. Activities, challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14

The Declaration, “Our ocean our future: call for action” adopted at the Ocean Conference in 2017, recognizes the special importance of certain targets in Goal 14 for small island developing countries (SIDS) and least developing countries (LDCs).

The Sustainable Development Goal 14 to “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” is of particular importance to the countries in special situations - the least developed countries, the land-locked developing countries and the small islands developing states - where millions of people depend on marine resources for their nutrition and their livelihoods.

SIDS unique dependence on oceans

change to biodiversity loss – undermining the full potential of SIDS to successfully achieve internationally agreed development goals.

Significant milestones have been achieved by SIDS towards the achievement of SDG 14. While SDG 14 calls for the protection and conservation of 10% of oceans spaces by 2030, a number of SIDS have declared a higher percentage of their ocean spaces as marine reserves. Most recently Palau, declared to protect 80 per cent of their exclusive economic zones (EEZs) as marine protected areas. Similarly, the Seychelles is in the process of identifying 30 percent of their EEZ to be designated as marine protection areas. SIDS have also demonstrated innovative pathways to harness capital markets for financing ocean-based initiatives with Seychelles becoming the first country in the world to issue a sovereign blue bond in 2018.

Activities:

the **international** commu[REDACTED] to develop T19 708.84 Tm0.80 [REDACTED]

