

CONNECTING FRESH WATER WITH SALT WATER

**SIDE-EVENT: JOINING HANDS TO HELP ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS 6 AND 14 - A WIN-WIN FOR FRESHWATER AND OCEANS**

Time and place: Wednesday 7 June, 9.00 – 10.30 AM
in Conference room 6 - UN Conference Building

Organizers: UN-Water, UN-Oceans and the Action Platform
for Source-to-Sea Management

UN WATER



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Event summary “Joining hands to help achieve SDGs 6 and 14 - a win-win for freshwater and oceans”

Type of event: Official side-event at the Ocean Conference, New York, 5-9 June 2017

Organizers: UN-Water, UN-Oceans and the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform)

Time and place: Wed 7 June, 9.00 – 10.30 AM in Conference Room 6 - UN Conference Building

Theme and program of event

The Sustainable Development Goals represent an integrated and indivisible agenda. Efforts to achieve SDG 14 have to be undertaken in collaboration with stakeholders from a wide range of sectors, many of which that are operating far upstream from coasts and oceans. There are two UN inter-agency mechanisms to strengthen coordination of United Nations system activities related to freshwater and ocean/coastal issues - UN-Water and UN-Oceans. Their members and partner organizations jointly gather knowledge on most water and ocean-related challenges facing the world today.

This event was organized with the objective to present priority areas as identified by UN-Water and UN-Oceans and discuss how the UN System and its partners can support Member States and other relevant stakeholders in achieving SDG 14. The event focused on those aspects that are dependent upon actions upstream, what type of relations and conversations are needed to instill such action and what opportunities there are for collaboration.



From left to right: Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, UN Office of Legal Affairs; Birgitta Liss Lymer, Programme Manager, UNDP-Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) Water Governance Facility; Maria van Berlekom, SIDA; Martha Rojas-Urrego, Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Habib El-Habr, UN Environment; Angela Cordeiro Ortigaro, UNESCO; Andrew Hudson, UNDP; Federica Pietracci, Interim Secretary, UN-Water; and Torkil Clausen, Chair, S2S Platform.

Summary of discussions

The event was opened and chaired by Federica Pietracci, Interim Secretary of UN-Water.



positive outcomes in the source-to-sea continuum.

Andrew Hudson, Head of the UNDP Water and Ocean Governance Programme presented an overview of the challenges and the needs for coordination to reach SDGs 6 and 14, referring to where we are now in terms of reaching the different targets and source-to-sea linkages between them. He emphasized the need for a revolution in water-use efficiency to decouple economic growth from water use and the important potential role of effective IWRM in achieving

Habib El-Habr, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), UN Environment, presented the mandate of the GPA, its three partnerships

on marine litter, nutrient management and wastewater, its relationship with Regional Seas and the role of UN Environment in the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs, including for indicators on water quality (6.3.2), IWRM (6.5.1), water-related ecosystems (6.6.1), coastal eutrophication (14.1.1), ecosystem-based management (14.2.1) and MPAs (14.5.1) and the opportunities for coordination between SDG 6 and 14 monitoring this provides.



Angela Cordeiro Ortigara, Programme Officer, United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UNESCO presented the findings from the 2017 World Water Development Report on the topic of wastewater, noting the strong link this issue provides between SDGs 6 and 14. To achieve water quality related targets under both SDGs 6 and 14, we need to improve wastewater management. Over 80 percent of the world's wastewater is currently released to the environment without

treatment and in many coastal areas, cities are growing faster than the wastewater treatment capacity. We need to prioritize pollution prevention and minimized wastewater flows over traditional “after-use treatment”. We need to increasingly treat wastewater as a potential resource – it is a reliable and sustainable source of water, energy and nutrients. The costs of improved wastewater management are easily outweighed by the benefits in terms of human health, socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability.

Torkil J. Clausen, Chair of the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform), introduced and moderated the panel discussion.

Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli, Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs recalled that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets out the obligation for States to protect and preserve the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution, including from rivers. She noted the need to enhance cross-sectoral coordination for the management of cumulative impacts, such as marine pollution from land-based sources. In that regard, she indicated that, if empowered to do so, UN-Oceans could have an important role to play, including in cooperation with UN-Water.



Martha Rojas-Urrego, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands emphasized that the Ramsar Convention concerns both inland and coastal wetlands and the opportunities this provides for coordinated and integrated approaches along the source-to-sea continuum. The work under the Convention includes both regional initiatives: such as in the Mekong where one project involves 28 Ramsar sites along the river to the sea; and national initiatives such as the activities to connect water

services and livelihoods in the Siné-Saloum delta in Senegal.

Jack Moss, Executive Director, Aquafed, highlighted the opportunity to point towards efficiency gains by coordinated SDG implementation when addressing politicians. By addressing one issue, such as wastewater management, they can contribute to multiple SDG targets in one go. He also emphasized the need to address runoff pollution from sources such as agriculture. For some reason, perhaps due to strong sectoral interests, this challenging but important source of water and marine pollution did not make it into the SDGs.

Christine Valentin, Chief Operating Officer, World Ocean Council, emphasized the need to translate the SDGs for the ocean business community to increase their understanding on what it means for them and how they can contribute. She made reference to the importance of port reception facilities – if they are not in place, the waste and wastewater from ships will most likely end up in the ocean.

Maria van Berlekom, Lead Policy Specialist, Environment and Climate Change, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) highlighted the many linkages with oceans across all SDGs, taking the example of SDG 5 (gender) and SDG 16 (governance and institution). It will be at the country-level where all this has to come together from the perspective of the specific challenges that need to be addressed locally.

Birgitta Liss Lymer, Programme Manager, UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility and Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management emphasized the need for collaboration with actors upstream to achieve SDG 14. They may not have the knowledge, capacity or financial means to address issues that would primarily benefit the downstream. The SDGs give us the goals and targets but not the tools on how to get there. Mechanisms such as the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management can support knowledge exchange and learning to find more effective ways of coordinating and financing development options that benefit both upstream and downstream stakeholders.



In response to the presentations and panel discussions, Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogay, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN, urged more parties to join the UN in-house dialogue on water.

Other points that came across during the Q&A included suggestions to strengthen collaboration with FAO to work on issues related to agriculture and runoff pollution and to identify the incentives for bringing agriculture to the table, looking at the

opportunities provided by market-based tools such as trade permits on nutrients and similar.

The main points coming across through the event can be summarized as:

- Consensus on the need for and benefits of coordinated implementation and monitoring of SDGs 6 and 14
- The importance of communicating the multiple gains by investing in measures that would benefit multiple SDGs such as wastewater management, to politicians
- The opportunities to draw upon existing UN-Water, UN-Ocean, UN agency and other initiatives to ensure strong coordination in the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs
- The need to involve other sectors, notably agriculture, in the efforts to achieve both SDGs 6 and 14

More photos and a short summary of the event can be found at:

<http://enb.iisd.org/oceans/sdg14conference/enbots/7jun.html#event-3>

Annex 1. Program of event

Chair: Federica Pietracci, Interim Secretary of UN-Water

Keynote (15 min): SDGs 6 and 14 – Challenges and the needs for coordination, Andrew Hudson, Head, UNDP Water and Ocean Governance Programme

Technical presentations on key issues in need of interagency collaboration and coordination.

1. (10 min) “Addressing land and ocean connections” by Habib El-Habr, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, UN Environment
2. (10 min) “Wastewater the untapped resource (WWDR 2017) - a strong link between SDGs 6 and 14” by Angela Cordeiro Ortigara, Programme Officer, United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UNESCO

Panel discussion (55 min, including 15 min Q&A) to explore how the United System and its partners best can support Member States and other stakeholders in achieving SDG 14 and how the contribution from SDG 6 implementation towards achieving SDG 14 can be maximized.

Moderator: Torkil J. Clausen, Chair of the Action Platform on Source-to-Sea Management

- Martha Rojas-Urrego, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli, Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs
- Jack Moss, Executive Director, Aquafed
- Christine Valentin, Chief Operating Officer, World Ocean Council
- Birgitta Liss Lymer, Programme Manager, UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility and Action Platform on Source-to-Sea Management
- Maria van Berlekom, Lead Policy Specialist, Environment and Climate Change, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

(5 min) Closing words

