

UN-OHRLLS Contribution to Secretary-General's Report on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea

The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the Vienna Programme of Action VPoA), and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of CS

value to outputs from small-scale fisheries, and to enhance access to markets for the products of sustainable small-scale fisheries of SIDS⁴; promoting the conservation, sustainable use and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including through measures that benefit SIDS that are adopted by relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements⁵; enhancing the capacity of SIDS to sustainably use their fisheries resources and develop fisheries-related industries, enabling them to maximize benefits from their fisheries resources and ensure that the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred to SIDS⁶.

On the social dimension, the SAMOA Pathway stressed the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of SIDS⁷.

With regard to the environmental dimension, one key outcome from the SAMOA Pathway also the conservation, by 2020, at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas in SIDS, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and for ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in SIDS marine environment⁸;

With SIDS heavy dependency on the oceans, coasts and marine resources for their economic growth, the SAMOA Pathway also listed the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and sea-level rise as a factor in hindering growth in SIDS⁹. The challenge to constantly manage the balance between exploitation and conservation of their vast ocean resources is one that SIDS continues to grapple with. In this connection the importance of development of scientific knowledge capacities in SIDS remains paramount. The SAMOA Pathway In this regard the SAMOA Pathway highlighted the importance of undertaking marine scientific research and develop the associated technological capacity of SIDS, including through the establishment of dedicated regional oceanographic centers and the provision of technical assistance, for the delimitation of their maritime areas and the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf¹⁰.

OHRLLS Activities on Oceans - 2014

In line with its advocacy mandate in favor of SIDS, OHRLLS, convened a number of events which included three specifically on oceans and marine resources. On 13 June, 2014,

