

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

“The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”.

It is the objective of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to establish a legal order for the oceans and the sea. The Convention provides a comprehensive legal framework for the use of the oceans and the sea, covering a wide range of issues, including the rights and responsibilities of States in relation to the sea, the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and the development and sustainable use of the marine resources. The Convention is a key instrument of international law governing the oceans and the sea, and it has been widely accepted and implemented by States around the world.

**Background**

OHRLLS is mandated with supporting the implementation of the three internationally agreed programmes of actions for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, respectively the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the Vienna Programme of Action VPoA), and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. All three programmes the contribution of science, technology and innovation to poverty alleviation, promotion of structural transformation and sustainable development.

SDG 14.7 calls for strengthening ocean science in developing countries, in particular in SIDS and LDCs including increase in scientific knowledge, development of research capacity and transfer of marine technology. These targets reflect the commitments made in SAMOA Pathway as well as the Istanbul Programme of Action.

SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs require and need to be supported in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) is mandated to support these countries in their development efforts.



and the importance of Capacity Building and Marine Technologies Transfer to SIDS to Support Sustainable Development.

The EGM made recommendations related to capacity building and technology transfer to SIDS; enhanced cooperation and effective implementation relevant frameworks for marine science and transfer of marine technology to SIDS. The recommendations emphasizes the need to develop targeted SIDS capacities and scientific know-how on marine science, research and technology and (ii) to capture SIDS traditional knowledge as a major resource for tackling climate change, resilience building and developing adaptation strategies.

The Report also underscores that marine scientific data and information collected, including in particularly those collected in areas under SIDS national jurisdiction, should be carried out pursuant to the provisions of UNCLOS and Article 244 in particular, and that the transfer of knowledge resulting from marine scientific research be disseminated to SIDS.

For full set of recommendations and Report of the EGM see:  
[http://unohrlls.org/UserFiles/EGM\\_report\\_recommendations\\_fin.pdf](http://unohrlls.org/UserFiles/EGM_report_recommendations_fin.pdf)

## **LDCs**

LDCs, especially coastal and small island LDCs, require strengthened capacity on ocean science, especially as related to implementing SDG14. This includes observation systems, scientific equipment, laboratory capacity and capabilities, training, analysis of human impact on marine ecosystems, and scientific research and assessments, among others.

Strengthened support is needed to address the range of steps in mitigating pollution of marine eco-systems including from land-based activities. This includes support for carrying out impact assessments, assessing the science-policy interface, and development of appropriate

## **LLDCs**

The oceans are common heritage to mankind and therefore their conservation and sustainable use are important to all including the landlocked states. Initiatives to implementation of SDG 14 should therefore include the landlocked countries.

The participation of the landlocked countries in ocean science is important but these countries are still marginalized from taking part in ocean science and other related activities. This is in part due to their lack                      lack