

## CONCEPT NOTE

### **Accelerating Ocean-Based Climate Action**

Location: Hybrid (CR3, UNCC + Zoom)

Date/Time: Wednesday, 24 April 2024  
(14:45-16:00, Bangkok time)

Co-hosts: Government of Indonesia  
Government of Fiji  
Government of Maldives  
Government of France  
ESCAP

#### **I. Background**

During the Seventy-ninth session of the Commission, ESCAP member States adopted a resolution (RES/79/2) to accelerate ocean-based action to combat climate change including through capacity building, innovation, technology development and transfer and requested ESCAP to convene **a dialogue on ocean-based climate action (OBCA)** prior to the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference.

Considering that ocean-based climate solutions could significantly contribute to reducing the “emissions gap” to support achieving 1.5°C pathway, the dialogue is aimed to facilitate discussions on the potential of ocean-based climate solutions in Asia and the Pacific. Cross-sectoral opportunities encompass expanding marine conservation and restoration, scaling up ocean-based renewable energy, decarbonizing shipping, enhancing ocean-climate resilience, etc.

In this connection, at the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean held on 30 October 2023, the Government of Indonesia, as the initiator of the Resolution 79/2, shared its interest in promoting regional OBCA cooperation including through developing a regional voluntary initiative taking the opportunity of the dialogue. Regional OBCA cooperation could support implementing decisions of recent Conference of Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC as well as various multilateral processes. The Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan adopted by COP27 in 2022 underscored the role of the ocean by encouraging the inclusion of ocean-based action in national climate goals including nationally determined contributions (NDCs). COP28, based on the first global stocktake which recognizes the critical role of the ocean in achieving net zero emissions, called on scaling up ocean-based mitigation action such as preserving oceans and coastal ecosystems.

The G20 in 2022, presided by Indonesia, incorporated ocean and climate nexus into the Bali Leaders’ Declaration, which acknowledges the role of seagrasses, coral reefs, mangrove, wetland ecosystems in supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation. The ASEAN’s Blue Economy Framework adopted in

2023 perceives the blue economy as the new engine for ASEAN’s future economic growth and encompasses ocean and climate elements including assessing emissions and carbon sequestration of coastal ecosystem, applying blue carbon in line with NDCs, and prioritizing blue and renewable energy development.

## II. Objective

This side event will provide an opportunity to discuss ongoing developments on ocean-based climate actions across the region and to identify the thematic elements of the regional OBCA dialogue to take place on 23 September 2024 in Bangkok.

Delegations and experts may provide recommendations on actionable proposals that could be integrated into potential areas of regional OBCA cooperation to be discussed at the regional dialogues.

## III. Agenda

Time	
14:45-14:55	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. <b>Tri Purnajaya</b>, Director, Economic and Environmental Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia</li> <li>• Ms. <b>Andie Fong Toy</b>, Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific</li> </ul>
14:55-15:15	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Proposal for a regional OBCA initiative</b>, Mr. <b>Novi Susetyo Adi</b>, Senior Geospatial Analyst, Directorate for Coastal and Small Islands Utilization, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries</p>
15:15-15:55	<p><b>Panel discussions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. <b>Hussain Niyaz</b>, Secretary, Economic and Development Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives</li> <li>• Mr. <b>Amenatave Yauvoli</b>, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Fiji to ESCAP</li> <li>• Mr. <b>Olivier Poivre d’Arvor</b>, Ambassador for Polar and Maritime Affairs, Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic for the United Nations Ocean Conference</li> <li>• Mr. <b>Mahesh Pradhan</b>, Coordinator, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia</li> <li>• Delegations of member States</li> </ul>
15:55-16:00	<p><b>Summary of discussions</b></p>