

SIDE EVENT AGENDA

Roundtable

Navigating Change:

Progress and prospects in the fight against marine plastic pollution

17 April 2024, 10.00-11.30, Alternative Stage

Lead: MIO-ECSDE

Co-organizers: UfM, UNEP/MAP, IOC UNESCO, The Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, IUCN, MEDASSET, Beyond Plastic Med, WES, RAED, BlueCycle, Laskaridis Shipping Co. Ltd., USAID, Ocean Conservancy, NOAA, Common Seas, ZUG

As negotiations for an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution are ongoing, the roundtable seeks to chart the course of progress in the global fight against marine plastic pollution and shed light on the transformative actions taken to shift from a throwaway mindset to embracing sustainable alternatives. This insightful event will illuminate the challenges faced and will explore the future steps that hold the key to lasting change.

Numerous initiatives for marine litter prevention and mitigation have been conducted worldwide. The challenge now is to scale up these initiatives and experiences. Within this context, leveraging collective learning is essential, while addressing bottlenecks and considering local specificities for effective solutions.

During the roundtable, various marine plastic pollution initiatives will be highlighted, addressing a wide range of aspects of the entire management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation. Panellists from around the globe will have the unique opportunity to unpack the cumulative impact and valuable experiences of these initiatives that advance progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water).

The roundtable aims to not just celebrate achievements but also emphasize tangible outcomes and measurable impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems. Its primary objective is to inspire further action, highlight benchmarks for success, and provide event participants with the knowledge and motivation needed to implement similar initiatives.

Aligned with the Ocean Decade Actions, this event also serves as a catalyst for enhanced cooperation. Through the showcasing of scalable success models and facilitating international dialogue, it holds the potential to ignite similar actions worldwide. By creating a ripple effect of inspiration and collaboration, the event aims to amplify the reach and impact of the 9th Our Ocean Conference and the Ocean Decade, fostering a global movement towards ocean sustainability.



OUR OCEAN
GREECE - APRIL 15-17, 2024

AN OCEAN OF POTENTIAL

SIDE EVENT AGENDA

Prof. Michael Scoullos, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Chemistry and Oceanography at the University of Athens, Team Leader of the Water and Environment Support (WES) project, Chairperson of MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med

Time	Theme/speaker
10.00-10.05	<p><i>Welcoming remarks & introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prof. Michael Scoullos, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Chemistry and Oceanography at the University of Athens, Team Leader of the Water and Environment Support (WES) project, Chairperson of MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med.
10.05-10.45	<p><i>1st round of panellists & QA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Ms. Steffi Lemke, German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (accompanied by Mr. Marquardt and Dr. Altvater from Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH) – Ms Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator – Ms Nicole LeBoeuf, National Ocean Service Assistant Administrator, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, Senior Programme & Policy Officer, MIO-ECSDE – Ms Mercedes Munoz Canas, Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy Program Manager at IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation – Ms Aliko Lampropoulos, Head of External Affairs, Common Seas



10.45-11.15	<p><i>2nd round of panellists & QA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Union for the Mediterranean Deputy Secretary General on Water, Environment & Blue Economy - Ms Gillian Caldwell, Chief Climate Officer and Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) - Mr. Nicholas Mallos, Vice President of Conservation, Ocean Conservancy - Dr. Emad Adly, Water and Environment Support (WES), General Coordinator of RAED - Dr. Nikos Simantiris, Scientific Officer at MEDASSET - Ms Suzanna Laskaridis, Founder and Director of Blue Cycle - Prof. Konstantinos Aravossis, UNESCO Chairholder on Green Innovation and Circular Economy at National Technical University of Athens
11.15-11.25	<p><i>Exchange with the participants</i></p>
11.25-11.30	<p><i>Wrap up & closing remarks</i></p>