World Oceans Day

8 June 2015, UNESCO

Healthy Ocean, protected Climate
**World Oceans Day**
This day draws attention to the vital role the ocean plays in our everyday life as a major source of oxygen. It also highlights the impacts of human actions on the ocean with the hope of encouraging, mobilizing & uniting the world behind a project of sustainable ocean management.

**UNFCCC**
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the global initiative investigating means to tackle climate change while acknowledging the fact that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability may be affected by a range of factors, e.g. CO₂ emissions.

**COP21**
The Paris Climate Conference (COP21), is the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC which will be taking place in Paris at the end of 2015. 195 States will come together to debate and negotiate solutions to problems related to climate change.
In celebration of the United Nations World Oceans Day, taking place every 8 June, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), together with the Ocean and Climate Platform, is dedicating this special day to the importance of the ocean for humanity and the global climate system. While covering about 70 percent of the Earth’s surface, the world’s ocean has a two-way relationship with the weather and climate. The ocean influences the weather on the local and global scales, while climate changes deeply alter several ocean’s features. This event, open to all, will contribute to the preparation of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21) and the International Scientific Conference “Our common future under climate change” organized by France in collaboration with UNESCO at the organization’s headquarters from 7 to 10 July 2015.

Organised around scientific workshops, plenary sessions, a high level political segment, and exhibitions, the World Oceans Day 2015 brings together scientists, political decision-makers, civil society and the youth to identify, through dialogue, ocean-sensitive actions and strategies to mitigate climate change and its socioeconomic impacts.

At the end of the day, recommendations and a call for action will be presented to the heads of state and eminent personalities present on this occasion, including His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco; high representatives of small island states, namely H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau, President of Palau; H.E. Danny Faure, Vice-President of the Seychelles; and H.E. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados; as well as Mr Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime affairs and Fisheries; and Mr Laurent Fabius, French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The messages will underline the ocean’s essential role for the survival of our planet and how crucial an “ambitious” climate agreement is that considers a healthy ocean as part of the solution to adapt and mitigate present and future global challenges.
The **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission** of UNESCO is the only organization within the United Nations system that is fully dedicated to ocean science in all ocean basins of the world. The Commission fosters international cooperation while coordinating programmes in research, services and capacity-building. These programmes are aimed at gaining further understanding into the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas in order to improve management, sustainable development, protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States.

The **Ocean and Climate Platform** is an alliance between the civil society, scientific institutions, companies, multilateral organizations and local governments. Its goal is to mobilize and gather the different actors working on ocean and climate issues to recognize the contributions of civil society for the 2015 Paris Climate Conference while optimizing the visibility of ocean issues within the UNFCCC negotiations.

**One Planet, One Ocean**

IOC-UNESCO and the Ocean and Climate Platform are well-aware that advancing the global ocean and climate agenda requires the full involvement of all stakeholders. This is why the **World Oceans Day** is an event open to the public, bringing together the international scientific community, Member States representatives, political decision-makers, youth representatives and civil society, as well as the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and the UNESCO Secretariat.
WORLD OCEANS DAY

Objectives

Mobilize the international scientific community to work together in building knowledge on the ocean’s role in the climate system in order to better inform Member States, decision-makers, and international institutions in the lead up to the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (30 November - 11 December).

Create a political momentum for ocean and climate issues to foster commitment of nations for enhanced consideration of the ocean within the climate change negotiations and the parallel process in the UNFCCC.

Provide a forum for civil society, youth and scientists to discuss the ocean’s role in the climate system, in the lead up to the international scientific conference, organized by France in collaboration with UNESCO at the organisation’s headquarters, “Our common future under climate change” (7 - 10 July 2015).

Raise public awareness through “Ocean and Climate” exhibitions and side events.

Promote the development of sustainable, ocean sensitive adaptation and mitigation strategies through improved collaboration between science, policy and society.
“Together let’s ensure oceans can sustain us into the future. Let us reflect on the multiple benefits of the oceans. Let us commit to keep them healthy and productive and to use their resources peacefully, equitably and sustainably for the benefit of current and future generations.”

Ban Ki-moon
### Programme

#### 9.00 - 10.00 Opening Ceremony
Room I

#### 10.15 - 12.30 Workshops

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#### 10.15 - 13.00 UNESCO Campus “One Planet - One Ocean” Room I

#### 14.00 - 16.45 Plenary Session Room I

- **14.30 - 15.15** **Round Table 1**
  The Ocean in the Climate System

- **15.15 - 16.00** **Round Table 2**
  Impacts of a Changing Climate on the Ocean and Society

- **16.00 - 16.45** **Round Table 3**
  The Ocean as Part of the Solution? - Aspects of Governance & Stakeholder Mobilization

#### 17.30 - 19.00 High Level Ceremony Room I
The purpose of this 2015 World Oceans Day, as an official COP21 event, is to mobilize and unite political actors, scientists, youth and civil society for the protection of marine ecosystems and to place the ocean at the heart of the climate change negotiations. Until now, the main focus of the negotiations has been mostly on greenhouse gas emissions, while ocean related issues have remained overlooked.

The opening of ceremony in presence of UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, will be the occasion to present the objectives and structure of the day. To reach these, the participating ocean experts, students and civil society representatives will elaborate recommendations for improving scientific knowledge and its dissemination, and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies based on the ocean’s positive potentials. At the end of the day, key messages will be delivered to the heads of state, United Nations representatives and political decision-makers attending the High Level Segment of the World Oceans Day.

Confirmed attendance of:

Irina Bokova  
Director-General  
UNESCO  

Miguel Serpa Soares  representing  
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs & United Nations Legal Counsel  

Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
UNited Nations  

Lisa Emelia Svensson  
Ambassador for the Oceans, Seas and Freshwater  
Sweden  

Gilles Boeuf  
Director, National Museum of Natural History  
France  

Video message by:  
Christiana Figueres  
Executive Secretary  
UNFCCC
Through thematic workshops, ocean and climate experts will discuss the ocean’s essential role in the climate and life support systems of our planet and the risks and impacts caused by ongoing climate change. Potential adaptation strategies that could help mitigate the ongoing changes should be tailored to the needs of specific actors - national and local governments, scientific communities, and the civil society - and could feed into the COP21 negotiations, and beyond that, to the post-2015 climate agenda.

Four parallel workshops are taking place in the morning. The first one studies the links between the ocean and the climate, focusing on physical and biochemical interactions such as warming and acidification. The second one focuses on the socio-economic impacts of climate change, with a special interest to the way humans and coastal ecosystems react to these challenges; the third one deals with the means to mitigate climate impacts through eco-innovations and collaboration between science and society. The fourth workshop explores ways to include the ocean dimension in climate negotiations and the post 2015 climate regime.
Warming and Acidification of the Ocean: two sides of the same coin

Under many respects the ocean is closely linked to the climate. It has absorbed 30% of all CO₂ released into the atmosphere and 90% of the excess heat in the climate system since the industrial revolution. The ocean is the main regulator of how the rainfall and drought’ patterns will shift in the future, with a direct impact on human settlements. Ocean acidification remains relatively unknown to the general public, even though ocean acidity has increased by 26% since 1850. Projections have shown that, at the present rate of CO₂ emissions, ocean surface water’s acidity could triple by the end of this century. Given the fact that everything is interconnected, ocean acidification affects the marine food chain and biodiversity, and consequently it might directly impact the organisms we consume.

Negotiations taking place at the COP21 and beyond must absolutely take the ocean and its natural limits into account. This workshop will encourage societies throughout the world to reduce the sources of ocean acidification and global warming (CO₂ emissions), so as to decrease their unavoidable impact on humans and to protect coastal environments.

Coordinators:

Luis Valdés
Head, Ocean Science Section
IOC - UNESCO

Marc Metian
Research Scientist
IAEA Environment Laboratories

Ocean Acidification
International Coordination Centre

IAEA OA-ICC
Moderator:

David Osborn
Director
Ocean Acidification - International Coordination Centre
IAEA

Speakers:

Jean-Pierre Gattuso
Senior Research Scientist, CNRS
Villefranche Oceanographic Laboratory
France

Sabrina Speich
Research Professor
Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique,
Ecole Normale Supérieure
France

Helen Findlay
Research Scientist
Plymouth Marine Laboratory
United Kingdom

Patrizia Ziveri
Research Professor
Institute of Environmental Science & Technology
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Spain

James Orr
Research Scientist
Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l’Environnement
France

Linwood Pendelton
Research Scientist, AMURE
Centre for the Law & Economics of the Sea
Université de Bretagne occidentale
France

Healthy Ocean, protected Climate
Socioeconomic Impacts of Climate Change

Marine and coastal ecosystems are major components of climate regulation. Coastal areas are also among the most densely populated areas on the planet, which makes them highly vulnerable to climate change. This workshop deals with the social challenges in relation to the impact of CO₂ emissions and climate change and investigates how the ocean and coastal socio-ecosystems react to these challenges. Recent adaptation strategies will then be studied. Improving our understanding and recognition of social impacts will help put the ocean in the top priorities in future climate negotiations.

The workshop focuses on the related topics which have a direct impact on societies living in coastal ecosystems, such as rising sea level and vulnerable coast lines, climate change and the exploitation of live resources, coral reefs, and ocean acidification.

Coordinators:

**Denis Bailly**
Deputy Director, UMR-AMURE
Centre for the Law and Economics of the Sea
Université de Bretagne occidentale

**Denis Allemand**
Scientific Director
Centre Scientifique de Monaco
The Ocean: a Source of Eco-innovations & Citizen Commitment to building a “Blue Society”

Not only does the ocean regulate the climate, it is also crucial to our food supply, health, economy, and future. Its extensive potential, still rather unexplored, offers numerous solutions to climate challenges.

This workshop highlights ways to promote sustainable management of human activities both at sea and in coastal areas through eco-innovations that are adapted to a broad diversity of actors, types of knowledge, and cultures. Representatives from the private sector present maritime innovations, holding potential solutions to adapt and mitigate climate change. NGOs and institutions specialized in scientific mediation outline initiatives fostering collaboration between citizens and scientists. These include: innovative citizen scientific efforts aimed at gaining a greater understanding of our ocean’s biodiversity and bioresources, strategies used for placing the ocean at the heart of our daily concerns, and initiatives encouraging individuals and communities to take positive actions.
WORLD OCEANS DAY
Workshop 3

Coordinators:

Catherine Chabaud
Founder and President
Innovations Bleues

Colomban de Vargas
Researcher, CNRS
Station biologique de Roscoff

Philippe Vallette
General Manager
Nausicaa

Sylvain Pioch
Research Scientist
Ecology of Arthropods and Anthropogenic Activities
Université Paul Valéry-Montpellier III
France

Julian Stone
Project Coordinator
Ephèse
France

Raphaëla le Gouvello
Navigator
France

Yvan Griboval
Founder and President
Sailing One
France

Speakers:

Healthy Ocean, protected Climate
What Place does the Ocean hold in Climate Negotiations & Initiatives?

New pathways must be identified in order to ascertain that the question of the ocean is raised in international climate discussions and initiatives.

This workshop explores opportunities to ensure that the vital role of the ocean in climate mitigation and the challenges of adaptation in coastal zones are fully acknowledged in the current climate negotiations and in the post 2015 climate regime. Participants will also discuss options to help raise funding for oceans, and to bring the ocean and climate expert communities together.

Coordinators:

**André Abreu**
Head of the Environment and Climate Policy
TARA Expéditions

**Raphaël Cuvelier**
Project Coordinator
Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco

**Julien Rochette**
Coordinator Oceans & Coastal Zones Programme
IDDRI
Speakers:

**Biliana Cicin-Sain**  
President and Chair  
International Board of Directors  
**Global Ocean Forum**  
**UNITED STATES**

**Michel Colombier**  
Scientific Director  
Climate Change and Energie  
**IDDRI**  
**FRANCE**

**Christophe Lefebvre**  
Agency for Marine Protected Areas  
**FRANCE**

**Dan Laffoley**  
Senior Advisor  
Global Marine and Polar Programme  
**IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature**  
**SWITZERLAND**

**Torsten Thiele**  
Founder  
**Global Ocean Trust**
The **UNESCO Campus** is part of a series of thematic conferences organized by UNESCO, in partnership with the **GDF-SUEZ Foundation**. The idea is to educate youth about current social, educational and environmental challenges, thus helping them in becoming responsible citizens.

This UNESCO Campus **“One Planet - One Ocean”** has been developed by IOC-UNESCO in collaboration with the **Surfrider Foundation Europe, Tara Expéditions** and the **CNRS**. It seeks to engage students with varied backgrounds – ranging from biology, oceanography and environmental studies to sociology, law and political science – **to take a stand for our ocean and to draw up an Action Plan** with clear recommendations for ocean and climate management that will be delivered to the decision-makers at the end of the day.

This Campus is an opportunity to integrate and mobilize students around the issues evoked by COP21 and boost momentum for change among the actors of tomorrow’s society. It is essential to give students the keys of reflection and action to enable them to meet the challenges of climate change and to develop solutions that fit them and which will bring together the next generation.

To reach this objective, moderators committed to the ocean, such as **Patricia Ricard**, President of the Paul Ricard Oceanographic Institute and renowned ocean experts facilitate the discussions between students.

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**Organized by:**

[UNESCO logo]

**In collaboration with:**

[Surfrider Foundation Europe logo]

[CNRS logo]

[Paul Ricard logo]
“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.”

Ryūnosuke Satoro
COP21 is a major opportunity for the ocean community at large to contribute to the discussions and negotiations with fresh ideas on key topics, such as the importance and usefulness of distinguishing greenhouse gases and their relative impact on the ocean, assessing blue carbon storage potentials and investigating means to create synergies between adaptation and mitigation challenges on the ground.

During the Plenary session, high-level experts on ocean and climate issues explain the current level of knowledge, including the latest research results. They highlight the main challenges the ocean is facing as well as their impacts on socioeconomic systems. The discussion moreover focus on how the ocean can be integrated in the international debate on climate change, and how solutions can be identified on a local and global scale.
Opening remarks by:

Vladimir Ryabinin
IOC-UNESCO

Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin is Executive Secretary of IOC-UNESCO. He has a background in physical oceanography with a PhD in sciences: physics and mathematics. His professional path involved studies of the ocean circulation, development of a technology for numerical weather prediction, and a large variety of research projects. He was Executive Director of the International Ocean Institute and Senior Scientific Officer of the World Climate Research Programme and a staff member of the World Meteorological Organization where he worked on the international coordination of climate research.

Paul G. Falkowski
Rutgers State University of New Jersey, United States

Professor Falkowski is Director of the Rutgers Energy Institute and Bennett Smith Professor in Business and Natural Resources at Rutgers University. He obtained his PhD at the University of British Columbia and joined Brookhaven National Laboratory in 1976 as a scientist in the Oceanographic Sciences Division and served as its head from 1986 to 1991. For his research, he was awarded with numerous fellowships and medals, such as the Vernadsky medal from the European Geosciences Union and was elected, inter alia, at the United States National Academy of Sciences.

Luis Valdés
IOC-UNESCO

Dr. Luis Valdés Santurio is Head of the Ocean Sciences Section at IOC-UNESCO. His more than 30 year-experience spans marine research and field studies related to marine ecology and climate change, he has advised various governmental, intergovernmental & international organizations as well as research funding agencies & was a Spanish Delegate, inter alia, in the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), where he has chaired different groups and committees. In the 1990s, he established the time series programme maintained by Spain in the North Atlantic & the Mediterranean Sea. In 2007, he received the ICES Services award.
The Ocean in the Climate System

Leading ocean experts and keynote speakers outline the numerous physical, chemical and biological links between the ocean and the climate. Here, the crucial objective is to raise public understanding of how interconnected these two systems are, as they are most often investigated independently. By studying climate and ocean together, greater knowledge and understanding of these systems can be gained.

For example, ninety three per cent of the excess heat generated by human activities via the greenhouse effect is absorbed by the ocean, thus mitigating the increase in the atmosphere’s temperature. Therefore the ocean has a major role in regulating and controlling the earth global balance. It mitigates climate fluctuations; indeed, such variations would be much quicker and sharper if they were only determined by the atmosphere.

Facilitation:

Françoise Gaill
CNRS - Centre national de la recherche scientifique, FRANCE
Françoise Gaill is research director emeritus at the CNRS. She was in charge of the CNRS Institute of Ecology and Environment (INEE). Being a marine biologist, she has chaired the “Grenelle de la mer” committee in charge of research and innovation. She is chair of the National committee for marine, maritime and coastal research of the Conseil National de la Mer et des Littoraux and is scientific advisor for the CNRS INEE.
Keynote Speakers:

**Lisa Levin**

_Scripps Institution of Oceanography, United States_

Lisa Levin is Director of the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, Distinguished Professor, and Oliver Chair at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. Dr. Levin is a biological oceanographer who studies benthic ecosystems in deep sea and shallow water. Her research involves the structure, function and vulnerability of coastal zones’ ecosystems, with a focus on natural and climate-induced stress. Over the past three decades Dr. Levin’s research has been conducted on the coastal zones of the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. She is currently engaged in promoting stewardship of deep-ocean ecosystems through the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative in order to fight the growing industrialization.

**Martin Visbeck**

_GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany_

Dr Martin Visbeck is Chair of Physical Oceanography, GEOMAR Helmholtz-Zentrum für Ozeanforschung Kiel and Kiel University, Germany. His current research is concerned with integrated marine sciences and in particular with ocean and climate variability and change with an emphasis on the circulation of the Subpolar North Atlantic and Subtropical Oxygen Minimum Zones. For his research he went on expeditions on research vessels but he increasingly makes use of modern robotic platforms including profiling floats and gliders. He is committed to the development of ocean observatories for long-term observation of the ocean.

**Laurent Bopp**

_Institut Pierre Simon Laplace, France_

Dr Bopp is climatologist and oceanographer, a researcher at CNRS and Head of the climate and biogeochemistry modelling group at Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l’Environnement in Paris. He has authored more than 100 publications, mostly on the role of the ocean in the climate system and in the global carbon cycle. He has served as a lead author for the last report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
Impacts of a Changing Climate on the Ocean and Society

The second round table addresses societal issues related to the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on the ocean in relation to the coastal resources and humans who depend on them for their livelihoods. The keynote speakers establish a link between the changes in the maritime environment and their implications for society. For example, floods and coastal erosion, aggravated by rising sea levels caused by global warming, are major risks for already vulnerable coastal communities and infrastructures. Therefore, it is essential to promote the sustainable management of human activities at sea, in coastal areas and inland in order to mitigate these detrimental effects of climate change.

Facilitation:

Luis Valdés
IOC-UNESCO

Dr. Luis Valdés Santurio is Head of the Ocean Sciences Section at IOC-UNESCO. He has more than 30 years of experience in marine research and field studies related with marine ecology and climate change. In the 1990s, he established the time series program which is based on ocean sampling sites and marine observatories in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea and is under the responsibility of Spain. This program represents a significant contribution to understanding marine environments and is a good example of how important basic research is to lead to responsible management of the natural resources.
Keynote Speakers:

**Lorna Inniss**  
*Coastal Zone Management Unit, Barbados*

Dr Inniss is the Acting Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit in Barbados. She served as the elected Chair of the UN Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Caribbean Tsunamis and Coastal Hazards Warning System from 2008-2012, and is the Joint Coordinator of a Group of Experts established by the United Nations General Assembly to provide the first Integrated World Ocean Assessment.

**Jean-Pierre Gattuso**  
*Villefranche Oceanographic Laboratory, France*

Jean-Pierre Gattuso is CNRS Research Professor at the Villefranche Oceanographic Laboratory, and Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris. He was Scientific Coordinator of the European Project on Ocean Acidification and headed the launching of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Center and co-edited the first book on ocean acidification. He is the Founding President of the Biogeosciences Division of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) and founding editor-in-chief of the journal Biogeosciences. He is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and received, inter alia, the Vernadsky medal of the EGU.

**Manuel Barange**  
*Plymouth Marine Laboratory, United Kingdom*

Professor Manuel Barange is the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Science at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, and Honorary Professor at the University of Exeter, UK. From 2010-2013 he was Chair of the Scientific Committee of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, and from 1999-2010 he was Director of the International Project Office of the Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics project. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed publications and edited books on “Climate Change & the Economics of the World’s Fisheries” and “Marine Ecosystems & Global Change”. In 2010 he was awarded the IOC-UNESCO Roger Revelle Medal.
Given the intrinsic relationship between ocean and climate systems, the decisions reached at COP21 will have an impact on the marine environment and people’s lives. This last round table aims at identifying new pathways in order to ensure that the question of the ocean is raised appropriately in the climate negotiations, especially with regard to the COP21 outcomes. Options are investigated and debated to promote inclusion of ocean-related concerns in both the Paris Agreement and the financial mechanisms addressing climate issues. Special attention is also given to possible ways to make the climate and ocean communities work together in the framework of the post-2015 agenda, and to mobilise all actors, including the private sector, in defining solutions.

**Facilitation:**

*Julian Barbière*

**IOC-UNESCO**

Julian Barbière, (MSc in Bio/Geoarchaeology, MSc in Environmental Sciences) is IOC programme specialist, head of section for Marine Policy and Regional Coordination. He coordinated the preparation of the Assessment of Assessments leading to the establishment of the UN World Ocean Assessment under the UN General Assembly in 2011.

**Keynote Speakers:**

*Marjan van den Belt*

**Massey University, NEW ZEALAND**

Dr van den Belt, is Associate Professor and Director of Ecological Economics Research New Zealand at Massey University. She is part of two expert panels of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; i.e. “Values and valuation” and “Modeling and scenarios”. She contributes to the first United Nations World Ocean Assessment as the Coordinating and lead author of Chapter 3 “Scientific Understanding of Ecosystem Services”.

**WORLD OCEANS DAY**

Round Table 3

The Ocean as Part of the Solution? - Aspects of Governance and Stakeholder Mobilization
**Teresa Ribera**  
**IDDRI, France**

Teresa Ribera has been the director of the Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations since July 2014. She chairs the Advisory Board of the Momentum for Change UNFCCC Initiative and is a member of the Global Agenda Council on Climate Change in the World Economic Forum. She is also a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Global Leadership Council. Teresa Ribera was Secretary of State for Climate Change in the Spanish government between 2008 and 2011, and, as such, was responsible for the environment and climate policies as well as for the national meteorological agency.

**Jean-Louis Chaussade**  
**SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT COMPANY, France**

Jean-Louis Chaussade holds an engineering degree and a master’s degree in economics (1976). He is a graduate from Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris (1980) and from Harvard Business School (1988). He was appointed Chief Operating Officer of SUEZ for South America in 1997. In 2004, he became Executive Vice-President of Suez and Chief Executive Officer of Suez Environnement. Mr. Chaussade is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of Lyonnaise des Eaux (France) and of Sita France. He has been Chief Executive Officer of Suez Environnement since July, 2008.

**Miguel Serpa Soares**  
representing the United Nations Secretary-General and UN-Oceans

Miguel Serpa Soares was appointed Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel in 2013. He holds a degree in law from the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon (1990) and a Diplôme de Hautes Études Juridiques Européennes, Collège d’Europe, Bruges (1992). Before taking up his current position, he was a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and was Director General of the Department of Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal. He has also acted as a Legal Adviser to the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the European Union (1999-2008).
The World Oceans Day celebration concludes with the presentation of a call for action and recommendations, and will be followed by keynote addresses from Heads of state, and eminent representatives, who will set up the roadmap until and beyond COP21 so as to ensure a healthier ocean in a preserved global climate.

A delegation of university students – tomorrow’s experts and decision-makers – from the UNESCO Campus also convey their message and expectations for the preservation of the ocean and climate to the politicians and decision makers attending the ceremony, in an effort to place the ocean at the heart of climate change negotiations just before the floor is opened to the political decision makers and head of states.

Moderation and Ocean call for the Climate by:

Sandra Bessudo
High Presidential Counselor for Environmental Management, Biodiversity, Water & Climate Change
COlOMBIA

Key messages by:

Lisa Emelia Svensson
Ambassador for the Oceans, Seas and Freshwater
SWeden
Confirmed attendance of:

**HSH Prince Albert II**
of **MONACO**

**Danny Faure**
Vice-President of **SEYCHELLES**

**Karmenu Vella**
Commissioner for Environment, Maritime affairs and Fisheries of **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**Irina Bokova**
Director-General of **UNESCO**

**Tommy E. Remengesau**
President of **PALAU**

**Freundel Stuart**
Prime Minister of **BARBADOS**

**Laurent Fabius**
Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Development of **FRANCE**
The exhibition “Miracles Under the Waves” by Akiyoshi Ito, one of Japan’s foremost artists, will be the artistic focus of the World Oceans Day. Thanks to Mr Ito’s artistic compositions of underwater photographs, there will be a dialogue between art, science and nature. Upon arrival, the participants, visitors and decision-makers will be welcomed by the vibrant colours and mesmerizing variety of underwater life. May Akiyoshi Ito’s artistic photographs, by conveying the beauty of the ocean, move and inspire us to get dedicated to positive action for the preservation of the myriad marine ecosystems and to benefit from the ocean’s climate change mitigation capabilities.

The exhibition “WONDERS to Save” by the Permanent Delegation of Palau to UNESCO, in collaboration with photographer Lionel Pozzoli, is inviting the public to plunge into the dazzlingly beautiful, but highly vulnerable marine environments of Palau with their. Palau envisions a world where the ocean is rich, healthy, and abundant with marine life. Therefore, it is creating the world’s first nation-wide Marine Sanctuary, designating its entire ocean territory as a regenerative zone for sharks, whales, tuna, and countless other precious species.
The photo exhibition “OCEANO GRAPHIC” jointly organized by Ponant, GEO magazine and IOC-UNESCO aims at catching visitors and passers-by’s attention with interesting facts and amazing views of the ocean. The photographs of Nathalie Michel invite the public to a journey starting with the Polar regions’ fauna and magnificent landscapes and moving on to explore the flora of more tropical zones next, while not forgetting the various human activities at sea.

The multimedia “Ocean & Climate: heat ahead!” exhibition by Nausicaá and Tara Expéditions will allow the visitors to get a firsthand experience in understanding the essential role of the ocean on climate regulation and the consequences of climate change on the ocean as well, and hence the life support system of our planet. Moreover, the exhibition will foster better understanding of the ocean’s positive potential to mitigate and moderate the impacts of anthropogenic climate change if humanity succeeds in using and managing marine resources and ecosystems sustainably.
“The ocean is essential to our well-being and the future of our planet. All Governments and all societies must join forces in ensuring its protection.”

Irina Bokova
WORLD OCEANS DAY

Healty Ocean, protected Climate
ORGANIZATION

With the support of:

[Logos of Flanders, Délégation Permanente de la France auprès de l’UNESCO, and other partners]

Partners:

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Healthy Ocean, protected Climate
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

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