SIDE EVENT REPORT

Title: Oceans and the marine environment, including transport, ghost fishing gears, dumping, pellet loss and impacts on biodiversity

Date: Monday 29 May 2023 – 13:30-14:45

Co-organizers:
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Ocean Care
- Centre for Environmental Justice of Sri Lanka
- UN Ocean Envoy
- Institute for Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR)
- Ministry of Environment of Chile

Presenters and titles:

1. Addressing plastic pollution in the marine environment building on the current momentum for action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
   a. Presenter: Ambassador Peter Thomson, UNSG Special Envoy for the Ocean

2. IMOs work to address marine plastic litter from shipping and dumping of waste at sea
   a. Presenter: Mr. Fredrik Haag, Head Office for the London Convention/Protocol and Ocean Affairs, IMO

3. Combatting illegal traffic in plastic waste and discharge at sea and links with marine ecosystem resilience
   a. Presenter: Mr. Giuseppe Sernia, Programme Officer, UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme

4. Impacts of fishing gear, existing challenges and opportunities under the ILBI
   Presenter: Ms. Fabienne McLellan, Managing Director, Ocean Care

5. Sharing the Chilean experience
   a. Presenter: Mr Cristóbal Hernández Castillo, Oceans and Biodiversity Coordinator, International Affairs Office, Ministry of Environment of Chile

6. Plastic pollution due to X-Press Pearl ship accident in Sri Lanka
Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC-2)

a. **Presenter:** Mr. Indika Rajapaksha, Environment Officer, Centre for Environmental Justice of Sri Lanka

**Number of participants and breakdown of participants:**

115 participants (45 country representatives and 70 IO/NGO/academia representatives).

**Key messages resulting from the event:**

a. New global plastics treaty provides a fresh opportunity to develop a new comprehensive and effective governance framework, enabling cooperation and coordination to create a clear path for an ambitious action to address sources of plastic pollution in oceans and the marine environment.

b. Poor accountability and lack of adequate conservation and enforcement of vulnerable maritime and Marine Protected Areas as an obstacle for tackling plastic pollution at sea.

c. Out of marine plastic pollution, ghost gear is the most harmful form to ocean biodiversity. Abandoned and lost fishing gear continues to catch – for months or even years - both target and non-target species entangling and killing threatened and protected marine animals and commercially important fish species. Lost fishing gear also hurts local communities who depend on the ocean for their livelihood.

d. As global fishing efforts intensify, the risk of plastic pollution through an increasing amount of ALDFG, impacting food security and marine and coastal environments poses a significant challenge.

e. Some aspects of sea-based sources of marine litter have been regulated for many decades, such as through MARPOL Annex V (shipping) and London Convention/Protocol (dumping), however more efforts are needed to strengthen the implementation at national level.

f. While recent attempts have been made through existing intergovernmental fora, RFMOs and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) to address elements of the fishing gear pollution issue, including the adoption of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and provisions within the IMO Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships, no single instrument or body has adopted a comprehensive strategy for interventions across the full fishing gear lifecycle including design, use, trade and end of life treatment and has the capability to address the magnitude of the problem.

g. National public-private partnerships as key for promoting sustainability across the plastics value chain and developing innovative technologies for enhanced monitoring and enforcement of regulations.

h. National circular economy roadmaps and strategies for fisheries and agricultural services as opportunities for improving regulations on transport, ghost fishing gears, dumping, pellet loss and impacts on biodiversity.
Key policy considerations for the INC process resulting from the event, including the INC-2 discussions, and outstanding gaps to address in moving forward towards an international legally binding instrument:

a. Address the need for considering, within the drafting of the treaty, possible provisions related to standardisation of national legal frameworks to target illegal disposal of plastic waste at sea, coupled with evaluation of enforcement measures, including possible criminal sanctions.

b. Address plastic pollution more comprehensively in an effort to, inter alia, complement existing sectoral regulations with measures that are applicable at source and at downstream waste management; and to target elements of the design and properties of plastic products that accelerate the shift to a circular plastics economy.

c. The new global agreement on plastic pollution should serve as the umbrella framework for the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive global fishing gear strategy, or ‘sectoral approach’, to dealing with plastic pollution in fisheries. This should be in full recognition that, on topics where there exists a potential overlap of competencies with existing instruments, joint working groups would be established to clarify respective roles, share knowledge, data, and best practices, build capacity, and align activities and funding.

d. Address the need to treat plastic pollution in oceans and the marine environment as a critical issue with severe implications for public health and human rights.

Knowledge products and resource tools currently available to inform negotiators in this process:

UNODC:


OceanCare/EIA/SPREP/University of Wollongong Joint Briefing on fishing gear:


### Annex I: Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, 29th of May 2023</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPENING</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13h30-13h35</td>
<td>Addressing plastic pollution in the marine environment building on the current momentum for action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PANEL DISCUSSION I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13h35 – 13h42</td>
<td>IMOs work to address marine plastic litter from shipping and dumping of waste at sea</td>
<td>Mr. Fredrik Haag, Head Office for the London Convention/Protocol and Ocean Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13h42 – 13h49</td>
<td>Combatting illegal traffic in plastic waste and discharge at sea and links with marine ecosystem resilience</td>
<td>Mr. Giuseppe Sernia, Programme Officer, UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13h49 – 13h56</td>
<td>Impacts of fishing gear, existing challenges and opportunities under the ILBI</td>
<td>Ms. Fabienne McLellan, Managing Director, OceanCare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PANEL DISCUSSION II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14h03 – 14h10</td>
<td>Sharing the Chilean experience</td>
<td>Mr Cristóbal Hernández Castillo, Oceans and Biodiversity Coordinator, International Affairs Office, Ministry of Environment of Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14h10 – 14h17</td>
<td>Plastic pollution due to X-Press Pearl ship accident in Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Mr. Indika Rajapaksha, Environment Officer, Centre for Environmental Justice of Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DISCUSSION / CLOSING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14h17 – 14h43</td>
<td>Q&amp;A session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14h43 – 14h45</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
<td>Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Ocean Envoy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>