

SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL WATERS COOPERATION

Transformational Solutions: Blue Economy (Breakout)



IOC-UNESCO and FAO organized the only event dedicated to Blue Economy at the IWC9 Conference, Julian Barbière was in charge of presenting the topic during the introductory plenary session and he reported back during the opening together with William Emerson from FAO.

Mr. Theodore Marguerite, Principal policy analyst for Energy and Climate Change of the Seychelles, and Ms. Fernanda González, UNDP Programme Office in Ecuador presented the national perspectives of Seychelles and neighboring countries in the Indian Ocean and in between Ecuador and Peru.

Ms. Sulan Chen, Program advisor of the International Waters and Chemicals and Waste Management, GEF Small Grants Programme of UNDP and Mr. Xavier Vincent, Global lead for Fisheries and the Blue Economy of the World Bank presented the perspectives of the international organizations preceded by an interactive discussion with the audience.

The discussion with the speakers provided responses to emerging ocean issues through ecosystem and area-based management tools and sustainable blue economy initiatives, including transboundary and large marine ecosystem approaches for the sustainable use of marine resources with a view to achieve a healthy and a productive ocean.

National and international speakers agreed on the importance to create opportunities to build sustainable and inclusive development to all aquatic sectors. At national scale, blue economy strategies are contributing to the socio-economic development and the goals of Agenda 2030, which is the case of Seychelles and the transboundary actions being implemented in between Ecuador and Peru.

The audience also highlighted the need to address environmental sustainability in order to ensure that the ocean provides economic growth for future generations too. In this sense, the importance of making visible the ecosystem services provided by the ocean to citizen and private sectors.

The discussion focused on fisheries but many other sectors were identifying as key for their importance in marine spatial planning processes.

At the end of the session, the moderator asked the speakers to provide the following key messages to share during the International Conference for Blue Economy in Nairobi (Kenya) in November 2018:

- The importance to ensure policy coherence at national and regional level;
- The alignment of government actions towards a sustainable blue economy;
- The need of broad consultation amongst sectors affected;
- Sustainable and integrative management of coastal and ocean is the key;
- Apply lessons learnt and replicate good practices from other regions is more effective than finding new solutions;
- We need to think globally but acting locally for the sustainability of the ocean resources.