Virtual side event
at the High-level political forum (HLPF) 2022

The ocean: an essential lever for the implementation of all the Sustainable Development Goals. Interactions and perspectives.

July 07th 2022, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (New York time)

On Zoom – follow the link to register:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SVrc6qy8SUOlyt3-Ze8LeQ

I. Presentation:

The side event will illustrate the critical role of the ocean for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the structuring interactions that link it to a majority of them.

The presentations will focus on different examples of cooperation between States, within the European Union and in other institutional frameworks, as well as on the action of NGOs. The event will also provide an opportunity to analyze and discuss interactions between SDG 14 and the other SDGs, particularly in relation to climate.

The objective is to show the state of knowledge, innovations and good partnership practices, for example in research and education, as well as ongoing initiatives, both at the regional and international levels, fostering the development of more sustainable governance frameworks for the oceans.

The event will be opened by representatives of the United Nations and France, and will feature interventions by a diversity of stakeholders, including government officials from diverse partner countries and international organizations, civil society representatives and academics.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available, allowing interventions in French, English and Spanish.

II. Context:

As the President of the Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, reminded us on February 11, 2022, at the opening of the One Ocean Summit in Brest: “The ocean is the first victim of what we have not been able to do, or have done poorly: overexploitation, pollution, acidification that have put it in danger. It is part of the solution, in that it has natural solutions itself, for our biodiversity and to fight against climate change.”

The preservation and promotion of the oceans and seas is a crucial issue for the implementation of the SDGs. It is per se an autonomous objective, affirmed by SDG 14, but also an essential
lever for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole, because of its strong interactions with a majority of SDGs.

The side event proposed by France on the sidelines of the 2022 HLPF will aim to raise awareness on the crosscutting and universal nature of ocean-related issues. It will be held at the crossroads of several major deadlines and negotiations (One Ocean Summit, Our Ocean Conference 2022, United Nations Conference on the Oceans, United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences, COP 15 of the CBD, UNEA 5.2, BBNJ ...) which mark a major opportunity to shift our action towards a fairer, more sustainable and more resilient trajectory in the long term.

The side event will be structured around two main axes:

1) Education and scientific research for a healthy, productive ocean and a more resilient world;
2) Partnerships for a Blue Economy and Sustainable Governance in a Healthy Ocean.

This event will be inclusive and geographically open, with participants from at least three continents (Africa, Latin America and Europe) envisaged at this stage. Speakers will come from national administrations and regional (European Union) and international organizations, as well as from the scientific community and civil society.

(Themes: climate, biodiversity, blue economy, sustainable ocean governance, maritime pollution, sustainable production and consumption, education, research and innovation. The event will be directly linked to SDGs 4, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 17).

III. Agenda:

Moderation by Mrs Francoise Gaill (CNRS France)

Introductory remarks
- H.E. Mr. Eric Banel, Director General of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture (France)
- Mr. Peter Thomson, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for the Ocean (United Nations)

Panelists
- Mr. Laurent Bopp, climatologist (France)
- Mr. Francisco Armando Arias-Isaza, Director General of INVEMAR, Institute for the Protection of Marine Spaces (Colombia)
- Mr. Pierre Bahurel, Director of Mercator Ocean International (France)
- M. Kestutis Sadauskas, Deputy Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (European union)
- Representative from Morocco (tbc)
- Mr. Dipesh Pabari, Director of the NGO The Flipflop Project (Kenya).
- H.E. Mrs Ana Paula Zacarias, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations in New York (Portugal)

Q&A by the panelists

Conclusion remarks by Mrs Françoise Gaill