

**Ocean Pavilion, Blue Zone
COP27 Side Event**

Title:

OA Action: Increasing ambition for climate action and transforming response to climate-ocean change.

Confirmed Date & Time:

November 14, 2022

3:00pm-4:30pm

Organized by: **International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification**

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Event Overview:

With a membership representing more than 130 members across 24 countries and 760,000 kilometres of coastline, the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance) brings together governments and organizations from across the globe dedicated to taking urgent action to protect coastal communities and livelihoods from the threat of ocean acidification and other climate- ocean impacts. Together, OA Alliance members are increasing ambition for climate action and transforming response to climate-ocean change.

Hear from National and subnational government leaders who are committed to creating “OA Action Plans” that integrate ocean relevant science, mitigation and adaptation efforts across mainstream climate policies, and investments.

By integrating climate and ocean science, management and investments, OA Alliance members are demonstrating the types of actions required to deliver ambitious high-level commitments through the Paris Climate Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goal Agenda.

OA Action Plans also guide government decision-making, by measuring climate impacts to marine resources and implementing actions that support food security and sovereignty, increase resilience of marine ecosystems and build a sustainable ocean economy in the face of future change.

FINAL AGENDA

<p>Welcome Jessie Turner, Director of the OA Alliance</p> <p>Opening Remarks—Commitments to OA Action Plans</p> <p>Dr. Ko Barrett, Senior Advisor for Climate at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Vice-Chair at Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirmed – 5 MINUTES AT PODIUM</p> <p><i>Themes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Why did the U.S. join the OA Alliance at UNOC 2022? Call to action!</i>• <i>Key features of National OA Action Plan which support broader policies like the Administration’s Ocean- Climate Action Plan and call for increased urgency for aggressive carbon emissions reductions, nature-based solutions, infrastructure investments and explorations of renewable and CDR.</i>• <i>Emphasis on federal investments to date including the development of a federal OA program, national vulnerability assessment and congressional acts.</i>• <i>Commitments to support OA capacity building internationally through GOA-ON and OARS</i> <p>Opening Remarks by Governor Jay Inslee, State of Washington, co-founder of the OA Alliance confirmed -- 5 MINUTES AT PODIUM</p> <p><i>Themes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Importance of accelerating climate action, in the context of ongoing ocean warming, acidification and deoxygenation.</i>• <i>Washington State created a “blue-print for OA Action” and launched the OA Alliance</i>• <i>Welcoming US and UK to the OA Alliance.</i>• <i>Significance of climate-ocean action—regional to international.</i>• <i>Emphasis on state investments to date, including strengthening resilience of keystone species, deploying nature-based solutions and blue carbon pilots, and reducing nutrient pollution to improving coastal conditions.</i>	15 minutes
<p>Moderated Panel Discussion: Integrated Approaches to Climate-Ocean Action</p> <p>Each panelist will have 5 minutes to respond the question posed below.</p>	30 minutes

Government of Mexico confirmed

Undersecretary Martha Delgado, Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights (confirmed)

- *Can you tell us about Mexico's interest in expanding ocean acidification monitoring and policy integration across relevant ministries, departments and programs?*

Government of British Columbia, Canada- co-founder of the OA Alliance confirmed

Minister of Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable George Heyman MLA

- *Since 2018, the Government of BC has taken a series of important steps to address carbon dioxide emissions and their impacts; in 2019 the Preliminary Climate Risk Assessment identified ocean acidification as a significant risk from climate change for BC. How does the Provincial OAH Action Plan respond to this risk and support broader climate mitigation and adaptation priorities? Additionally, BC is a leading on climate-ocean science and response at local, regional and now international scales. Why is multi-scale action on this topic so important?*

Government of Egypt confirmed

National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries

Dr. Nayrah Shaltout, Associate Professor of Marine Chemistry Marine Environmental Division and co-chair of OA Africa

- *Can you tell us about Egypt's work on ocean acidification and why it's so important to include in larger discussions of climate resilience and sustainable fisheries? How does OA Africa support regional acceleration of climate-ocean knowledge for action? Can you share some of your priority projects?*

Government of the United Kingdom confirmed

Stephanie Ockenden, Head of Ocean and Climate Change Policy & International Evidence, Marine and Fisheries, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

- *As the outgoing president of COP26, the UK has included ocean elements as a critical part of climate leadership. Can you outline the high-level commitments to climate-ocean issues the UK has made and describe why working on ocean acidification domestically and internationally is important? Can you please tell us how the UK is thinking about mainstreaming OA activities across relevant domestic policies and frameworks?*

Commitments to OA Science, Policy, and Financing

15
minutes

Government of Costa Rica

Iván Delgado, Director of Climate Change from the Ministry of Environment and Energy

Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

Dr. Arthur Tuda, Executive Director

Government of Palau

Ms. Charlene Mersai, National Environment Planner

Government of Mozambique

Mr. Andre, National Institute of Meteorology

Background:

Facilitated through the OA Alliance, national, subnational, regional and tribal governments are proactively responding to the impacts of ocean acidification as they create OA Action Plans to effectively promote solutions and advancing knowledge into action.

OA Action Plans include strategies for reducing carbon emissions and local land-based pollution, strengthening monitoring nearshore to better understand and predict local conditions, investing in adaptive measures in partnership with industry or seafood dependent communities, and advancing information sharing strategies that help policy makers respond.

By creating an OA Action plan—in whatever form is chosen, national governments are better able to:

- Take inventory of regional/ local knowledge & observations of climate-ocean change.
- Develop a more comprehensive approach to climate risk analysis and preparedness.
- Establish better integration across climate, ocean and coastal policy and management.
- Strengthen the connection between science, community priorities and effective management in one region.
- Prioritize studies that examine adaptive capacity of critical species and explore actions that increase resilience.
- Strengthen public and private funding for OA-related mitigation, science, adaptation and resilience building projects.
- Implement existing climate and ocean commitments across the UN SDG Agenda, UNFCCC and other applicable agreements and frameworks.