

# Stakeholder Forum

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Vurehout 373 • 1507 EC Zaandam • NL & 2 The Links • Herne Bay • Kent • CT6 7GQ • UK  
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## Concept Note for a Webinar on SDG 13, Take Urgent Action to Tackle Climate Change and its Impacts, & SDG 14, Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development

This webinar - in the countdown to the 2023 SDG Summit - is the seventh in SF's series of webinars that will review two SDGs each month to see where we are in their implementation, examining interdependencies across goals, and what that means for accelerating implementation. The series, which is supported by UNEP, the EU, and in cooperation with UNDESA, is bringing together a wide range of experts, policymakers, and practitioners with knowledge of the SDGs' interlinkages and insights on integrated approaches that can help to develop recommendations on transformative actions for the SDGs, with an emphasis on strengthening the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

Our focus will be on SDG 13, Take Urgent Action to Tackle Climate Change and its Impacts, & SDG 14, Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development. The series will continue to explore different ways to enable integrated approaches to SDG implementation. A key aim of the series will be to identify ways to exploit positive interactions and mitigate trade-offs, including by forging multistakeholder coalitions behind programmes of accelerated action. Good practices will be identified for empowering communities, sectoral actors, and cross-sectoral alliances at multiple levels. The intention is to promote the establishment of communities of practice that will continue to collaborate in the lead-up to the SDG Summit and beyond.

Climate change is accelerating, and it is imperative that the international community and all of us accelerate actions to tackle this global challenge - to stabilize global temperature as quickly as possible and to adapt to the unavoidable changes we are already experiencing and which are very likely to get far worse. SDG 13 complements and points to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which elaborates in far greater detail countries' obligations and commitments to take strong climate actions. It is an acknowledgment that sustainable development in all its dimensions - including poverty and hunger eradication and advancement of people's health and well-being - will not be possible unless we tackle climate change, which is setting back human progress and acts as a threat multiplier exacerbating conflicts, forced migration and displacement.

The recent SDG progress report of the UN Secretary-General notes: *“Emissions should already be decreasing now and will need to be cut almost by half by 2030 - a mere seven years from now.”* In reality, emissions continue to rise globally, having increased by more than 50% since 1990. The mean global temperature rise thus far over the pre-industrial level has been 1.1°C, and the Paris target is to limit the increase to at most 1.5°C, with the science pointing to significant disruptions to climate, natural systems, and human societies beyond that point.



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Among the more significant indications of national progress, according to Climate Watch, both Germany and the United Kingdom reduced their emissions by 40% or more from 1990 to 2019. More discouragingly, United State emissions were roughly the same in 2019 as in 1990 and China's emissions increased over fourfold from 1990 to 2019 though the rate of increase began to slow from around 2010. Global climate finance remains grossly inadequate given the scale of the challenge, though it has increased at a rate of 7% annually from 2011 to 2021 (Climate Policy Institute). Bilateral and multilateral flows represent only a fraction of the total; recent deliberations on mainstreaming climate finance into World Bank and other multilateral development bank operations, and increasing resources accordingly, could potentially change that picture.

Progress on SDG 14 has been mixed but there are some promising recent developments. The WTO reached an agreement on prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies in June 2022. A new process has begun to negotiate a legally binding global agreement on plastics pollution, much of which makes its way into the world's oceans, wreaking havoc with marine life. Currently, roughly 7.5% of the world's ocean is protected in some way, with the vast majority of that within national jurisdictions. Only a tiny fraction of areas beyond national jurisdiction ("high seas") are currently protected, but in March 2023 the world's governments concluded a historic agreement to provide improved protection to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). One of the biggest challenges of the coming decades will be to manage and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on the world's oceans - from sea-level rise threatening coastal communities and whole small island nations to ocean acidification and heating, both of which are having profound effects on the ecology of oceans and the survival prospects of different marine species.

This seventh webinar will take place on 25 May 2023 at 8 am EDT / 2 pm CEST and will last for up to 90 minutes. The recording of the webinar and an audio podcast will be available soon after on the Stakeholder Forum website. A summary will also be produced and will serve as a contribution to the 2023 SDG Summit.

### The following agenda is being proposed:

**8:00 - 8:05** - Welcome and introduction: Charles Nouhan, Chair of the Board, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

**8:05 - 8:15** - The interlinked challenge of the SDGs: Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, Senior Adviser, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

**8:15 - Introduction to the Panel**, with Moderation by Dr. David Horan, Trinity College Dublin and Fellow at Stakeholder Forum



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**8:25 - 9:20** - Discussion on SDGs 13 and 14 with experts, and Q&A

### On SDG 13:

- Charles Karangwa, Head, Nature-based Solutions Team, IUCN, on Nature-based Solutions
- Dr. Lisa Sanderink, Assistant Professor, Energy Transition and Climate Governance, University of Twente, Netherlands
- Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh

### On SDG 14:

- Fredrik Myhre, Marine Biologist and Team Leader Oceans at WWF-Norway
- Dr. Marjo Vierros, Head of Science-Policy Research at the University of Edinburgh-Nippon Foundation Ocean Voices Programme
- Oliver Wragg, Commercial Director at Orbital Marine Power Ltd, and Member of the Board of Ocean Energy Europe, on mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change by enhancing oceans' contribution to tackling climate change
- Dr. Elisa Morgera, Professor of Global Environmental Law and the Director of One Ocean Hub, University of Strathclyde Law School

**9:20 - 9:25** - Summary remarks by Irena Zubčević, Director, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

**9:25 - 9:30** - Closing and thanks by Charles Nouhan, SF



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