



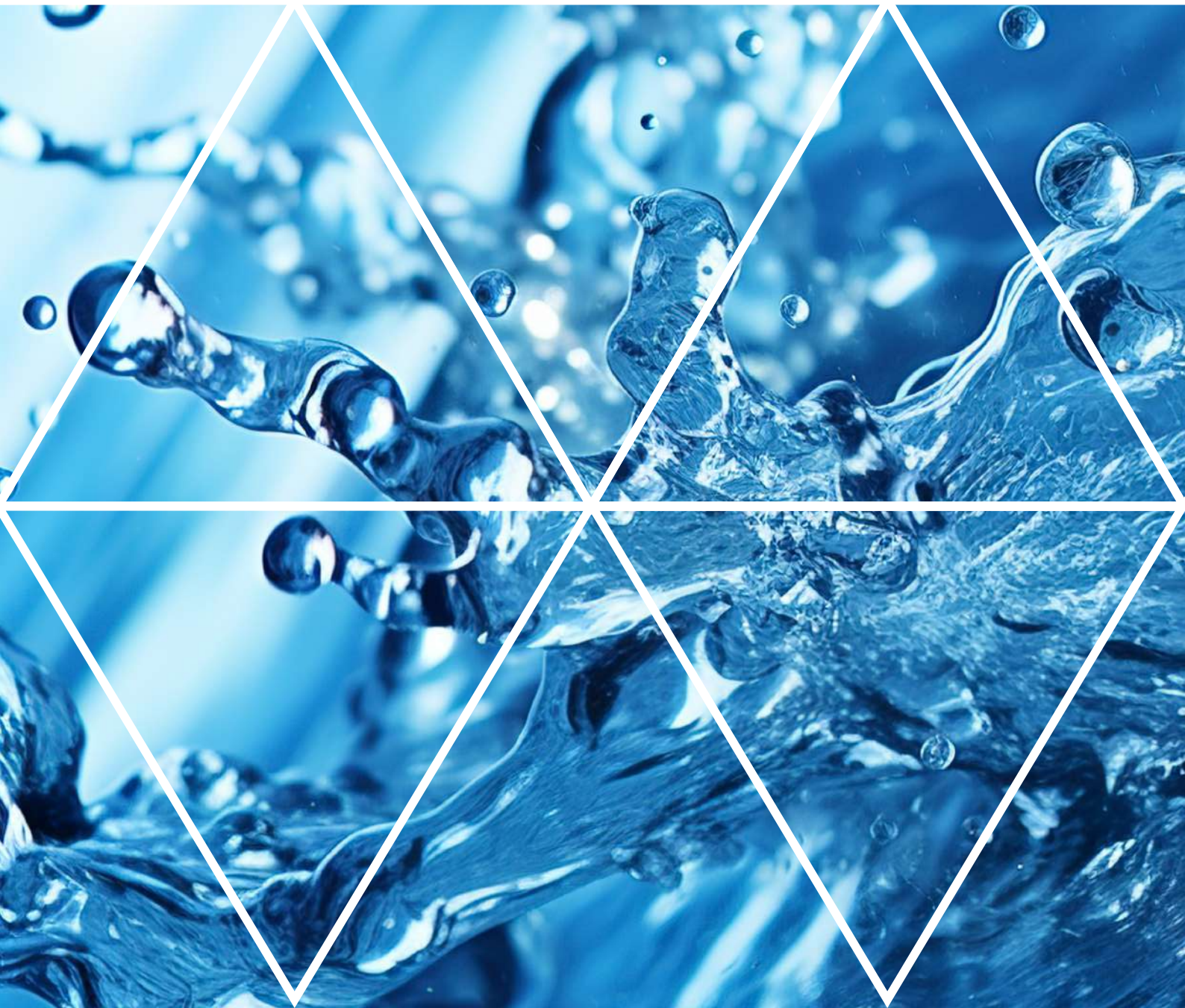
UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

# CHARTING A BLUE FUTURE:

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BLUE INDUSTRY AND UNIDO'S CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE BLUE ECONOMY AGENDA

Development Dialogue held with UNIDO Member States  
02 JULY 2024



## Advancing the Blue Economy for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) hosted an engaging Development Dialogue on 2 July 2024, focusing on its Blue Industry Contribution to the Blue Economy Agenda. The hybrid event drew over 120 attendees, including Permanent Missions from 32 nations and key development partners such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the European Union (EU), and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The hybrid format provided a vital platform for stakeholders to share insights and forge pathways toward sustainable development through the Blue Economy.

The dialogue served as an opportunity for UNIDO to present its initiatives and strategic frameworks, particularly the development of its Blue Industry Programmatic Framework. This framework aims to optimize and scale up UNIDO's interventions in the Blue Economy, ensuring they contribute effectively to the sustainable development goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda. By facilitating discussions and knowledge exchange, the Development Dialogue aimed to address challenges, identify opportunities, and enhance the collective impact of Blue Economy initiatives undertaken by UNIDO and its partners.

Furthermore, the dialogue aimed to highlight and explore the transformative potential of the Blue Economy, which involves the sustainable use of ocean and water resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and job creation while preserving aquatic ecosystem health. By convening experts, policymakers, and representatives from various sectors, UNIDO sought to present a comprehensive view of how the Blue Economy can drive sustainable development. The event emphasized the need for innovative solutions and collaborative efforts to harness the economic and environmental benefits of the Blue Economy.

### Ms. Cecilia Ugaz Estrada,

UNIDO's Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director: *"The Blue Economy is an integral part of UNIDO's mission of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The Organization is highly committed to harnessing the power of Blue Industries to drive positive change for our water ecosystems, our communities and our future"*



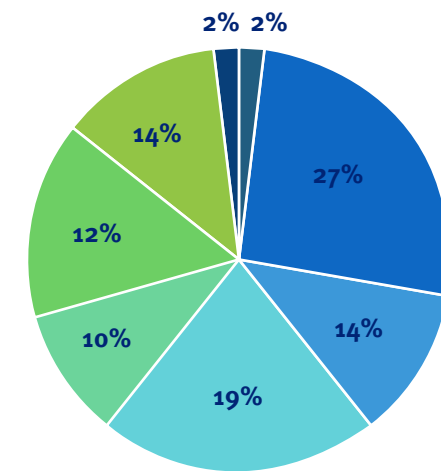
### Mr. Andreas A. Hutahaean,

Deputy Director of the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment of Indonesia: *"Indonesia's National Blue Agenda Actions Partnership provides a robust framework for cooperation between the country, UN agencies, and development partners. This partnership is crucial for accelerating the achievement of sustainable development in our maritime and marine sectors."*



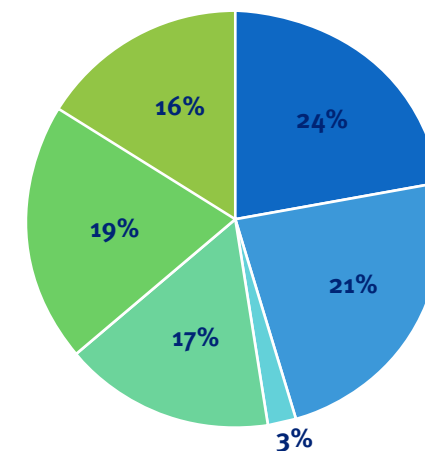
## Member States and Partners' Perspectives: Poll Insights on Advancing the Blue Economy

### What are most critical areas of focus for the Blue Economy in your country/for your organization?



- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management
- Marine pollution reduction prevention
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Development of renewable ocean energy sources
- Enhancing coastal and marine biodiversity conservation
- Promoting sustainable maritime tourism and cross-sectoral linkages
- Strengthening the marine based manufacturing industry, especially shipbuilding industry
- Diversification of blue economy sectors

### How can UNIDO better support member states in advancing their Blue Industries?



- Providing more targeted technical assistance and training
- Facilitating international cooperation and knowledge exchange
- Developing and implementing stronger regulatory frameworks
- Promoting innovative technologies and sustainable practices
- Increasing access to finance and investment opportunities
- Enhancing capacity-building for local communities, including women and youth

During the dialogue, a poll was conducted to gather insights on critical areas of focus for the blue economy. The results provided valuable insights into the priorities and expectations of stakeholders regarding the blue economy. UNIDO acknowledges these findings and commits to refining its strategies and programmes to effectively address these priorities, foster inclusive development, and promote sustainable practices within the blue economy framework.



## UNIDO's Blue Industry Programmatic Framework

The UNIDO Blue Industry Task Force presented the recent work towards developing the holistic and integrated Blue Industry Programmatic Framework. UNIDO emphasizes the significant economic, social, and environmental contributions of the ocean economy, particularly for small island and coastal developing countries. This sector not only generates trillions in revenue but also promotes self-employment and sustainable livelihoods.

UNIDO addresses diverse sectors within the blue economy, including traditional areas like fisheries and aquaculture, and emerging sectors such as ecotourism, biotechnology and marine pharmaceuticals. In November 2023, UNIDO introduced a comprehensive note detailing its projects and programmes aimed at supporting policy development, capacity building, and technology transfer at macro, meso, and micro levels.

### Blue Industries – A UNIDO coined term

*UNIDO has coined the term Blue Industries to refer to all traditional and emerging water-related productive activities, which contribute towards the enhancement of sustainable livelihoods, strengthening of industrial value chains, safeguarding of the environment and the facilitation and scaling up of innovation, thus positively addressing people, planet and prosperity.*

The UNIDO Blue Industry Programmatic Framework fosters a symbiotic relationship between people, the planet, and prosperity through the cultivation of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient Blue Industries. At the heart of its impact lies the enhancement of human well-being, as communities dependent on the Blue Economy experience improved livelihoods, greater economic opportunities, and increased resilience to environmental and socio-economic challenges. By promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions, the framework contributes to economic prosperity, fostering growth and innovation.

The framework will also champion the sustainable use of water resources and the preservation and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, ensuring their long-term health and vitality. Ultimately, this holistic approach generates positive ripple effects across society, economies, and ecosystems, driving progress towards a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

The Theory of Change that underpins the Programmatic Framework encapsulates a comprehensive approach to developing the Blue Industry, highlighting the interconnectedness of key domains of transformation in achieving long-term, impactful results.



To achieve these key conditions, UNIDO adopts a multidimensional approach. At the macro level, the Organization supports agenda setting, policy coherence, and multistakeholder partnerships. At the meso level, it focuses on capacity building, institutional advisory, and knowledge sharing. At the micro level, UNIDO delivers technical assistance, fosters innovation, facilitates technology transfer, and promotes investment.

These efforts are expected to drive broader transformations. The global community will be engaged, and the Blue Industry's contributions to sustainable development will be reflected in relevant strategies, whose implementation will ultimately result in improved jobs, livelihoods, and resilience of local and coastal communities. This engagement will also lead to healthier aquatic ecosystems, climate-compatible Blue Industry development, and enhanced trade integration of the Blue Economy, thereby contributing to global food security.

The UNIDO Blue Industry Programmatic Framework will be further consolidated through the convening of an Expert Group Meeting and presented to its Member States and partners in 2025, seeking their feedback to improve and expand their initiatives in the Blue Economy sector.



# Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Blue Industry: UNIDO's Theory of Change

## REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION

### Macro-level

Multistakeholder partnerships brokering

Convening of developing countries

Policy analysis, advice, benchmarking & coherence of national legislation

Awareness raising & capacity building of policymakers

Standards setting & compliance

### Meso-level

Capacity building of institutions

Enabling environment, institutional advisory & support services for BI sectors

Platforms for knowledge sharing & collaboration

### Micro-level

Firm-level technical assistance

Local innovation, technology transfer & digital transformation of industry

Training & capacity building of SMEs

Investment promotion & access to finance

## KEY CONDITIONS



## OUTCOMES

(Direct influence)

Enhanced productivity & local value-addition in the BI value chains

National and regional QI strengthened & competitive SMEs in the BI sectors

Women & youth effectively participate in & benefit from the BI opportunities

## TRANSFORMATIONS

(Indirect influence)

Global community engaged and BI's contribution to sustainable development reflected in relevant strategies

Improved jobs, livelihoods and resilience of local and coastal communities

Healthy aquatic ecosystems and climate-compatible BI development

Enhanced trade integration of BE and global food security

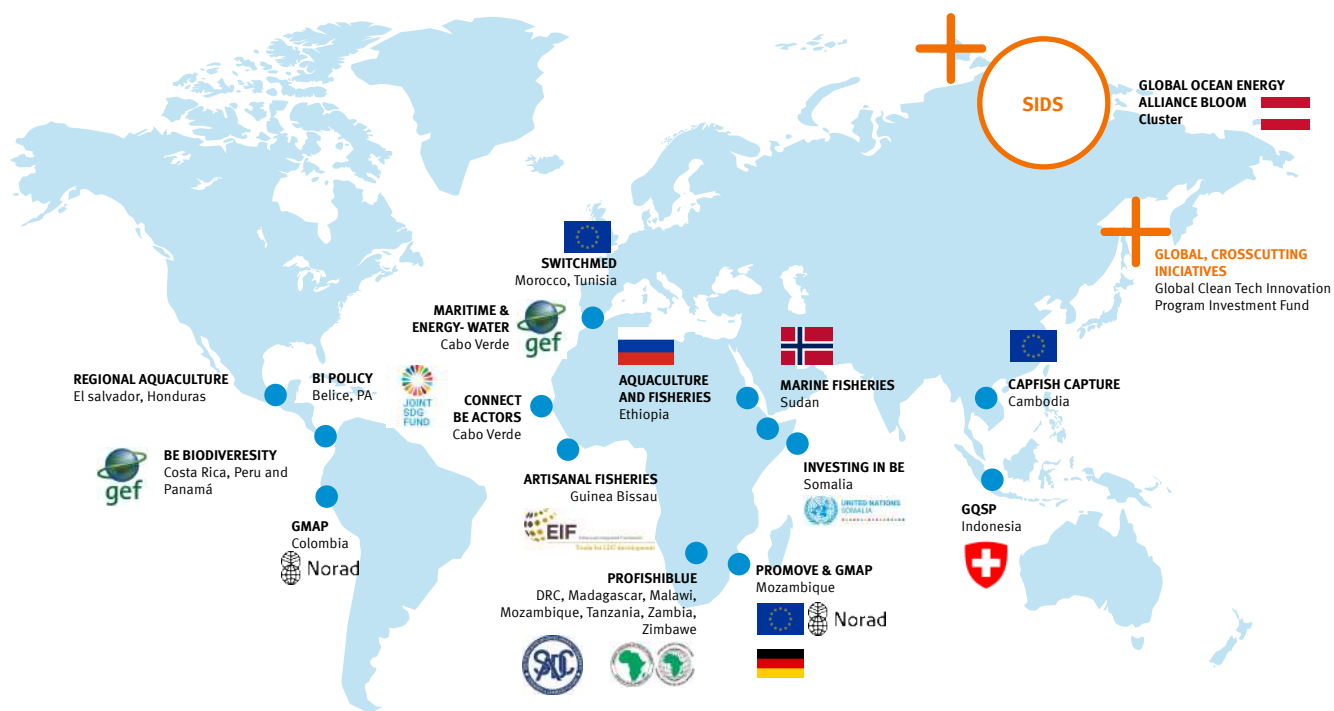
## IMPACT



People, planet and prosperity benefit from the development of a sustainable, inclusive and resilient Blue Industry



Selected success stories, drawn from UNIDO's extensive USD 75 million portfolio, highlighted the transformative potential of its work in this area and showcased the geographical breadth of the Organization's actions.



### Global Market Access Programme – Colombia Country Intervention

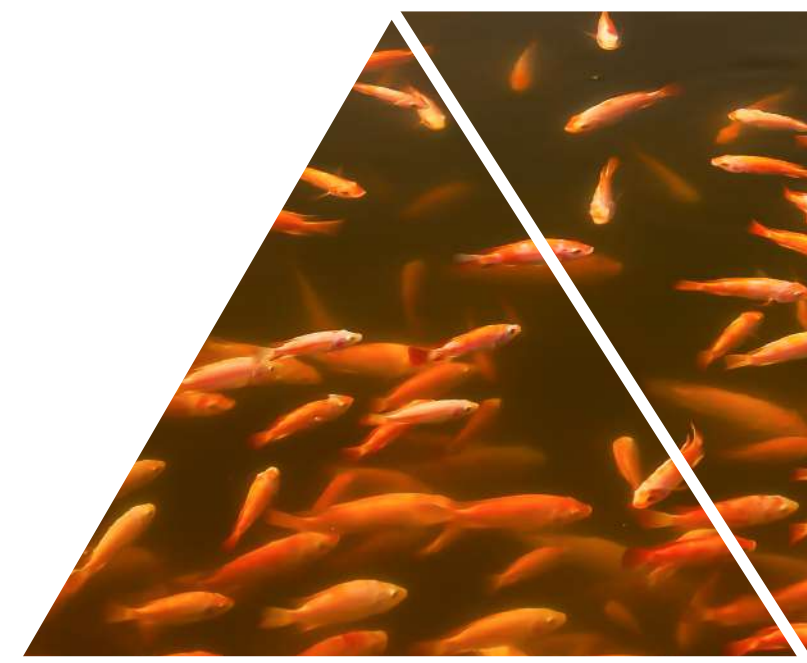
UNIDO presented the successful intervention of the Norad-funded Global Market Access Programme (GMAP) in Colombia. This initiative has significantly enhanced the competitiveness of Colombia's aquaculture sector, focusing on shrimp and tilapia. Through GMAP, technical competencies and capacities to comply with market requirements were elevated, institutional frameworks and quality infrastructure systems were strengthened, and market access was improved. These efforts have led to increased exports and the adoption of sustainable practices, with the project's beneficiaries accounting for 28% and 31% of total tilapia exports in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

### SwitchMed regional programme

The session discussed the successful completion of the 10-year SwitchMed programme, co-funded by the EU and the Government of Italy with a total budget of €22 million. In 2020, the programme incorporated a blue economy component in alignment with the EU's blue growth strategy. Key activities in the blue economy component included efforts to bolster policies and enhance capabilities, and pilots to promote resource efficiency, circular economy and digital transformation. Two country interventions were also highlighted, namely in Morocco, which focused on the valorization of by-products in the fish processing value chain, and in Tunisia, which concentrated on improving the feed conversion ratio in aquaculture.

### Global Ocean Energy Alliance

The Global Ocean Energy Alliance, launched in collaboration with SIDS DOCK at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, was also presented. Ocean energy technologies, such as wave and tidal energy, ocean thermal energy conversion, and seaweed-based energy production, offer significant potential for SIDS' blue and green economy aspirations. Despite barriers like knowledge gaps and financing issues, UNIDO aims to bridge these challenges through the alliance, fostering collaboration between the ocean energy industry in the global North and SIDS. The recent launch of the Global SIDS Hub in Barbados will further support the programme and drive sustainable development in SIDS.





Finally, the session convened distinguished representatives to discuss various strategic frameworks and initiatives related to the Blue Economy. The discussions showcased the diversity and depth of approaches taken by different regions and sectors to harness the potential of the sector, considering its multifaceted nature.

**Ms. Kanchana Wanichkorn,**

Director of the ASEAN Economic Community Department at the ASEAN Secretariat: *"ASEAN Blue Economy framework is one of the policy interventions for driving sustainability transformation in the region, encompassing economic opportunities arising not only from seas and oceans but also from inland waterways and freshwater resources."*



**Mr. Damien Prescod,**

Consultant Project Coordinator at Export Barbados: *"In Barbados, we are focusing on the blue economy and development of sectors like maritime transport and renewable energy, with policies being reviewed for national ocean governance and spatial planning."*



**Mr. Khov Koung,**

Deputy Director General of the Fisheries Administration in Cambodia: *"The UNIDO-EU Capfish initiative is a prime example of how innovation can drive sustainable aquaculture in Cambodia. By leveraging advanced technology and sustainable practices, we aim to boost productivity while preserving our aquatic ecosystems."*



**Ms. Veronica García Gutierrez,**

Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Costa Rica in Vienna: *"The importance of the oceans to the livelihood and food security of the Latin American and Caribbean region is extremely significant, with 27% of the population residing in coastal areas and 2.3 million people involved in fishing activities."*



**Mr. Azaza Mohamed Salah,**

Director of the Aquaculture Laboratory at INSTM in Tunisia: *"In Tunisia, the Switchmed project aims to develop sustainable management models for aquaculture, using innovative technologies like AI-coupled feeding systems to improve feed conversion ratios and reduce environmental impacts."*



## Key Takeaways of the discussion

The discussions emphasized the vital role of the Blue Economy in driving sustainable economic growth, fostering innovation, and promoting environmental stewardship across regional and sectoral levels. The dialogue also underscored the pivotal importance of oceans and inland waters in UNIDO's mission of achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development in particular, participants suggested the following additions and considerations to further enrich the Blue Industry Programmatic Framework:

### 01

**Enhancing Outreach:** It is crucial to intensify outreach efforts to ensure widespread awareness and global recognition of the Blue Economy. Effective communication strategies are essential for elevating the prominence of Blue Economy issues on international agendas and garnering broad-based support for related initiatives. This proactive approach will consolidate efforts toward integrating Blue Economy principles into global strategies, fostering collaborative partnerships across diverse sectors and regions, and ensuring that the Blue Economy becomes a central focus of sustainable development discourse.

### 02

**Expanding the Focus Areas for Blue Economy:** Several additional critical focus areas will be considered to further strengthen the UNIDO Blue Industry Programmatic Framework:

- Developing a comprehensive, integrated database that captures various aspects of the Blue Economy, addressing the sector's complexity and facilitating better decision-making.
- Publishing guidelines for sustainable practices and sharing expertise and best practices globally to help other countries adopt and benefit from these insights.
- Adopting a regional approach that recognizes the different stages of Blue Economy development and the unique challenges faced by each region, establishing regional working groups and designing tailored solutions.
- Expanding UNIDO's contribution to areas like sustainable coastal tourism, marine spatial planning, infrastructure development, ports and other maritime activities like shipbuilding, logistics management, inter alia.

# 03

**Encouraging Technical Cooperation Platforms:** With the right support, countries could look beyond traditional sectors like the food value chain and move towards industries such as naval architecture, maritime infrastructure, and renewable fuels for maritime transport. Technical Cooperation Platforms can provide a foundation for innovative collaborations and technological advancements that drive these sectors forward.

# 04

**Harnessing Synergies:** UNIDO's unique role can be leveraged to harness synergies and develop comprehensive packages for industrial development in the Blue Economy. This includes a focus on governance and promoting sustainable, inclusive progress. Establishing knowledge-sharing platforms that bring together countries and agencies can also enhance collaborative efforts and ensure the effective dissemination of best practices and innovative solutions. Similarly, synergies must be established with UNIDO programmes and strategies on relevant areas such as Climate Change.

# 05

**Improving Investment in Sectors:** Access to finance and forming partnerships with organizations that offer credit lines for the Blue Economy are crucial for developing Blue Industries. Significant investments are needed in the maritime sector, particularly in areas with high potential for trade growth, such as ports and critical infrastructure. It is also essential to involve other sectors in discussions about offsets, decarbonization, and environmental legislation to create a comprehensive and supportive investment environment.

# 06

**Mainstreaming Sustainability and Gender:** Integrating sustainability, including addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, into technical assistance projects is vital, particularly in the fish industry and processing sectors. Additionally, gender dimensions should be mainstreamed, as women play a significant role in these sectors. Ensuring their active participation and equitable benefits can enhance the overall impact of Blue Economy initiatives.

Overall, the **UNIDO Blue Industry Programmatic Framework** was recognized as a critical initiative, with broad support expressed for advancing it through future discussions and partnerships. This framework is seen as a cornerstone for driving the contribution of UNIDO to the Blue Economy, ensuring its alignment with sustainable development goals and fostering collaborative efforts to achieve substantial and long-lasting impacts.

## Agenda for the Development Dialogue on UNIDO's Blue Industry Contribution to the Blue Economy Agenda

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Segments of the Development Dialogue</b>
[10:00-10:05]	<b>Opening remarks by UNIDO Policy Making Unit, Ms. Tsung Ping Chung</b>
[10:05-10:10]	<b>UNIDO Introductory Remarks, Ms. Cecilia Ugaz Estrada, Managing Director, UNIDO</b>
[10:10-10:15]	<b>High Level Introductory Remarks</b>  Mr. Andreas A. Hutahaean, Deputy Director of the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment of Indonesia
[10:15-10:35]	<b>UNIDO Presentation on UNIDO's contribution to the Blue Economy through the Blue Industry</b>  Mr. Alejandro Rivera Rojas, Industrial Development Officer and Coordinator of UNIDO's Blue Industry Task Force  Ms. Muge Dolun, Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO  Mr. Martin Lugmayr, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO
[10:35-10:40]	<b>Q&amp;A after UNIDO presentation</b>
[10:40-10:45]	<b>Poll to the audience</b>
[10:45-11:40]	<b>Panel Discussion</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Christophe Yvetot, UNIDO Country Representative to the European Union  <b>Speakers:</b>  Ms. Kanchana Wanichkorn, Director of Sectoral Development Directorate, ASEAN Economic Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat  Mr. Damien Prescod, Project Coordinator, INEZ Oceans Unit, Export Barbados  Mr. Khov Koun, Deputy Director General of Fisheries Administration, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries in Cambodia  Ms. Veronica García Gutierrez, Minister Counsellor and Consul General of the Embassy and Permanent Mission of Costa Rica in Vienna  Mr. Azaza Mohamed Salah, Senior research scientist and Director of the Aquaculture Laboratory National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology (INSTM), Tunisia
[11:45-11:55]	<b>Q&amp;A to the panel</b>
[11:55-12:00]	<b>Closing remarks</b>

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