



HIGH LEVEL PANEL *for*
**A SUSTAINABLE
OCEAN ECONOMY**

**High Level Panel
for a Sustainable
Ocean Economy
Workplan
2026-2030**

High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy Workplan 2026-2030



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Introduction

Building on the momentum of 2025, this workplan outlines the Ocean Panel strategy for 2026–2030. This workplan was developed from collective national priorities, identified during bilateral meetings and breakout sessions, into decisive actions that enhance sustainable ocean governance, integrate international commitments, and strengthen the Ocean Panel’s global leadership.

The 2026–2030 workplan positions the Ocean Panel to transition from momentum-building in 2025 to deep, transformative impact. By integrating national priorities with global commitments and leveraging strategic partnerships, this draft workplan will advance 100% sustainable ocean management, drive the Transformation Agenda forward, and ensure that ocean governance is both equitable and resilient.

Strategic Objective

To ensure that Ocean Panel members implement high-quality, evidence-based Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) that serve as a unifying framework for national ocean governance, linking directly to the priorities of the Transformations Agenda such as low-carbon food systems, resilient coastal economies, and equitable stakeholder participation.

Strategic Themes and Outcomes

The workplan focuses on seven priority thematic topics identified by members:

1. 100% sustainable ocean management & Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) – Ocean Panel Headline Commitment
2. Global Ocean Observations
3. Ocean Climate Nexus
4. Blue Foods¹
5. Ocean Equity
6. Ocean Finance
7. Implementation and Ratification of International Agreements

Each theme includes: a 2030 outcome, core outputs for 2026–2030, key performance indicators (KPIs), and delivery mechanisms.

Annual Planning Framework

Between 2026–2030, the Secretariat will co-develop annual plans using the structure from the 2025 workplan, organised around:

Leadership Moments – the activation of leaders and ministers at key international ‘moments’ to demonstrate leadership and drive forward ambition, action and to enhance the Ocean Panel’s visibility on the world stage.

Championing and Demonstrating Action – This theme focuses on advancing priority actions through dedicated champions² within the Ocean Panel, while transparently showcasing the benefits and progress of a Sustainable Ocean Economy.

Enhancing Knowledge and Strategic Communication – This theme emphasises joint learning and the development of tools to share the Ocean Panel’s collective stances, while also amplifying key messages and progress through strategic engagement and outreach.

These plans will be reviewed annually by Sherpas and aligned with the global policy calendar (COPs, UNOCs, OOC, etc.).

¹ Also referred to as “aquatic food”—encompasses all edible aquatic organisms. For the purposes of the Ocean Panel, marine aquatic food includes finfish, shellfish (e.g. molluscs and crustaceans), seaweed, and other marine organisms that are harvested or cultivated for human consumption, whether from wild capture fisheries or marine aquaculture (mariculture).

² To drive forward key priority collective action areas, champions across the Ocean Panel membership are required, whereby the champions role is intended to spearhead specific collective action topics on behalf of the Ocean Panel, building momentum to driving forward action, working interessionally with a small group of members and the Secretariat.

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Thematic Topic	Transformations Agenda 2030 Outcome	Workplan Outcomes	Outputs	KPIs	Delivery
100% sustainable ocean management & Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) – Ocean Panel Headline Commitment	Sustainable Ocean Plans are providing a credible basis for safeguarding the long-term health and resilience of the ocean, attracting investment and creating jobs to the benefit of coastal communities and national economies.	Sustainable Ocean Plans are providing a credible basis for safeguarding the long-term health and resilience of the ocean, attracting investment and creating jobs to the benefit of coastal communities and national economies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded technical support and guidance through the dissemination of the SOP Handbook alongside a series of capacity-building webinars, consulting sessions, and toolkits. Increased commitments to the 100% approach. Launch an online platform that tracks SOP alignment with blue Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and key Transformations metrics (e.g., low-carbon contributions and biodiversity targets) Commission a multi-stakeholder feasibility study to assess the potential for implementing 100% management measures on the high seas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries with nationally approved SOPs % of SOPs incorporating Transformations Agenda targets (e.g., 30x30, blue NDC linkage) Growth in membership of the 100% Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage leadership moments (domestic launch events by Heads of State, participation at global forums) Support reporting of positive messages from SOP implementation; and sharing of experiences of all phases of SOP development and implementation In events, including webinars, aim to include Ocean Panel member representatives or new members of the 100% Alliance Encourage new members of the 100% Alliance through groups such as the G-20/ O20, Commonwealth Blue Charter, and other ocean focused and like-minded countries
Global Ocean Observations	A globally shared data revolution has contributed to sustainable ocean management worldwide.	A strengthened, internationally coordinated ocean observation system that supports evidence-based decision-making, early warning systems, and sustainable ocean planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host a High-Level Session on Ocean Observations (e.g. at COP, IUCN, or Ocean Panel meeting). Issue a joint statement or ‘call to action’ on the urgency of reversing the decline in ocean observing capacity. Develop a policy brief framing ocean observations as a global public good. Promote shared investment models and regional cooperation on data sharing and capacity building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of OP members contributing to shared ocean observation infrastructure. Number of high-level endorsements or commitments secured. Increase in global ocean observation coverage (spatial and temporal). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage global events (e.g. COP, UNOC) for visibility and commitments. Collaborate with IOC, GOOS, and other global initiatives. Facilitate regional dialogues and technical workshops. Engage with finance and development partners to support infrastructure investment.

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Ocean–Climate Nexus	Ambitious climate action has set the world on track to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and restore ocean health.	Ocean-based climate solutions are integrated into national strategies, recognising the ocean's role in climate regulation, its vulnerability to climate change, and the need for 100% sustainable ocean management for effective mitigation and adaptation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the identification, alignment, and implementation of ocean–climate nexus activities within existing national frameworks and instruments (e.g., NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs), and where appropriate, facilitate the development of Ocean Climate Action Plans (OCAPs) as a means to enhance coordination and ambition in countries where this is a national priority. Dashboard that monitors the incorporation of ocean actions in climate reporting. Convene climate-focused expert dialogues and host capacity workshops before major UNFCCC COP sessions. <p>Develop policy briefs that detail the opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned from the Green Shipping Challenge and other ocean mitigation initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of OP member NDCs (or associated implementation plans) and NAPs with ocean-specific climate actions % of OP members with OCAPs Stakeholder engagement metrics from capacity-building events ahead of COP sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene climate-focused expert dialogues and capacity workshops Ensure policy guidance aligns with both global climate standards and the Transformations Agenda priorities Utilise data and case studies from existing Ocean Panel reports to inform national and international communications Active participation in UNFCCC Ocean–Climate Dialogues and other relevant negotiation spaces.
Blue Foods	Wild fish stocks are restored and harvested at sustainable levels, aquaculture is sustainably grown to meet global needs, and waste is minimised and managed throughout the value chain.	Blue foods and sustainable fisheries are recognised as core components of food security and climate resilience, with their benefits fully integrated into national food and environmental policy frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of cross-sectoral coalitions that bring together fisheries, climate, and food security leaders to drive integrated policy solutions. Deploy targeted communication materials that articulate the environmental, social, and economic benefits of blue food. Blue foods embedded within NDCs, SDG2 (Zero Hunger) strategies, and food security policies. Annual cross-sector workshops to ensure that blue food messaging aligns with national and global goals. Capacity-building events and engagement to support RFMO reform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of OP member national policy documents, NDCs, and food security strategies that explicitly refer to blue foods Number of OP member-led proposals on RFMO reform submitted to RFMOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop tailored policy briefs and case studies Organise cross-sector workshops that align blue food messaging with national and global transformation goals Highlight Blue Food links to climate action and livelihoods – especially where food security is needed urgently

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Thematic Topic	Transformations Agenda 2030 Outcome	Workplan Outcomes	Outputs	KPIs	Delivery
Ocean Equity	People have equitable access to ocean resources, benefits are fairly distributed and the most vulnerable are protected from the risk of harm.	Inclusive ocean governance that centres Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement ocean literacy programs and capacity-building workshops targeting Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and local communities. Increased representation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in ocean governance processes. Standardised framework for integrating traditional knowledge published and adopted in key governance mechanisms. Equity coalition to advocate for inclusive ocean governance, with clear benchmarks and reporting mechanisms. Launch initiatives to capture and amplify the voices and experiences of underrepresented communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of OP member SOPs with equity provisions Number of capacity-building workshops conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate regional equality forums and training sessions Leverage digital storytelling to amplify voices from underrepresented communities
Ocean Finance	Sustainable ocean finance is accessible for all and drives ecologically sustainable and socially equitable economic growth.	The sustainable ocean economy attracts robust public and private finance, with Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs), Ocean Accounts and innovative financing mechanisms fully integrated into investment frameworks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showcase successful examples of SOPs, Ocean Accounts and de-risking interventions that have mobilized substantial investments. Engage with key financial events to promote sustainable ocean investment. Form a dedicated internal working group to integrate Ocean Finance actions into the broader ocean narrative, with regular (e.g., quarterly) strategy sessions. Refine and promote the narrative around SOPs as vehicles for channelling finance and implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of finance-related recommendations published and disseminated by the Ocean Panel Finance Working Group annually % of Ocean Panel countries that have developed and are applying Ocean Accounts in national policy or planning. Number of Ocean Panel-hosted or co-hosted events at global or regional financial convenings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated internal Finance Working Group Collaborate with international financial institutions and MDBs Integrate Ocean Finance actions into the broader ocean narrative
Implementation and Ratification of International Agreements	N/A	Full implementation of BBNJ, 30x30, PSMA, SDGs, Plastics Treaty, and WTO fisheries subsidies rules across OP members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadmaps and peer learning for implementing international agreements in national contexts. Institute regular Sherpa meetings and events to facilitate continuous dialogue, share best practices, and accelerate policy adoption. Produce concise, evidence-based policy briefs that articulate how these agreements contribute to a sustainable ocean economy and climate resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of international agreements ratified and implemented by members Frequency of joint policy statements or declarations at major global forums % of countries reporting progress on their commitments via progress dashboards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate diplomatic outreach through Sherpa meetings and ministerial events Integrate monitoring and evaluation via the progress dashboard