

G20 HIGH LEVEL PRINCIPLES ON SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT BLUE ECONOMY

BACKGROUND

The ocean is vital to the world's economy. Its resources provide food, jobs and income for almost 3 billion people, most of whom live in developing countries. The ocean economy, which includes employment, ecosystem services provided by the ocean, and cultural services, is estimated between \$3 to \$6 trillion every year¹. More than 80% of international transport of goods happens through sea routes.

Blue Economy refers to the 'the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, jobs, and social and financial inclusion, with a focus on the preservation as well as restoration of the health of ocean ecosystems.' sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem'.

Today, due to climate change and unsustainable use of ocean resources, the Blue Economy is facing a diverse range of threats including ocean acidification, degradation of marine ecosystems, increasing intensity and frequency of natural disasters which are impacting availability of marine resources and consequently the lives and livelihoods of people and communities that depend on them.

Building upon the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the upcoming Global Biodiversity Framework, and the broader ongoing efforts of the G20 to promote sustainable growth, the G20 High Level Principles on Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy propose a holistic framework integrating the various aspects pertaining to human development, environmental conservation, climate resilience and economic growth. The principles encompass cross-cutting issues and are mutually reinforcing, prompting their joint implementation. They present the basis for further developing action-oriented strategies.

The G20 encourages that these principles be taken into account by all countries, consistent with national systems and priorities, legislation and governance frameworks, and by relevant development partners. This will ensure a strong response to future demographic, social, economic, technological and environmental challenges, and improve the quality of life and livelihood for present and future generations, leaving no one and no region behind.

PRINCIPLE 1. Implementing effective and participatory cooperation frameworks:

International waters make up 50% of the surface area of the planet and cover over two-thirds of the ocean. Ensuring their sustainable use requires strong cooperation between governments at national as well sub-national levels. To enable this, legal and institutional frameworks should, as appropriate, support and encourage effective integration, collaboration and a long-term sustainable development vision.

PRINCIPLE 2. Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacities: A regional planning approach should address existing and potential threats and vulnerabilities arising from extreme weather events as well as slow-onset changes. Creation of financial, institutional, and

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/desa/exploring-potential-blue-economy>

regulatory frameworks must be fast tracked to build the adaptive capacities of communities, businesses and governments.

PRINCIPLE 3. Fostering inclusion: A sustainable blue economy requires effective stakeholder management and participation. People-centred approaches need to empower individuals and communities to participate in planning and implementation processes. National and sub-national policies as well as regional cooperation frameworks must ensure protection of human rights and maintain socio-economic harmony.

PRINCIPLE 4. Mainstreaming ecosystem-based marine spatial management: Ecosystem based marine spatial management is an approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within an ecosystem, including human uses. Adopting such an approach at regional levels would (1) balance the increasing number, diversity and intensity of human activities with the ocean's ability to provide ecosystem services; (2) incorporate appropriate ecological, economic, social and cultural perspectives; and (3) support management that is coordinated at the scale of ecosystems as well as political jurisdictions.

PRINCIPLE 5. Leveraging innovation and digital technology: Creating a sustainable blue economy requires a concerted focus on encouraging innovations that minimize the environmental impact of sectors and industries related to the oceans and coastal areas. Technology-based innovations offer new solutions to achieve circularity (zero waste, zero pollution), ensure climate neutrality, and protection of and investment in nature and biodiversity.

PRINCIPLE 6. Ensuring gender equality: Regional policy frameworks must integrate gender equality in all areas. Adopting a gender-inclusive perspective in regional planning and infrastructure investment would lead to increased health, social and economic benefits for women's welfare, increase the benefits from and contribute towards a sustainable -blue economy.

PRINCIPLE 7. Recognizing, Protecting, and using traditional knowledge systems: Understanding and management of the marine environment requires benefiting from, respect for, and inclusion of, traditional knowledge, cultures and practices. Complementing science and technology, traditional knowledge systems recognize and value the intangible relationship between humans and ecosystems. Protecting them is vital towards ensuring community engagement and inclusion as well as implementing effective participatory conservation models.

PRINCIPLE 8. Enhancing access to long-term finance: Ensuring sustained and equitable socio-economic growth requires public finance as well as adoption of a mosaic of new approaches including blended finance mechanisms to unlock private capital. This requires creation of institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks that can mobilize investments and ensure accountability and transparency.

WAY FORWARD

The G20 is committed to contribute to a sustainable blue economy through regional efforts to bridge finance and infrastructure gaps, reducing inequalities, and create an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder engagement and private sector responsible investment.

In order to drive the initiative forward, we:

- Encourage the implementation of regional planning frameworks in G20 countries and international cooperation initiatives;
- Call on development partners and private sector to support regional development planning, resource mobilization and implementation.

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