

2021 BIENNALE DE LUANDA

PANAFRICAN FORUM FOR CULTURE OF PEACE

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE THEME: “Harnessing the Potential of Oceans for Sustainable Development and Peace”

Africa’s coastal and ocean waters occupy three times the landmass, and is increasingly gaining importance as a potential source of economic growth and employment for the region. However, there are large gaps in knowledge of the resources available and impact of different types of pressures on the ocean ecosystems. The United Nation Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which commenced on 1 January 2021, provides an opportunity to mobilize ocean stakeholders in the region to ensure that Africa harnesses ocean science and research to optimally utilize their substantial blue economy potential, which is the new frontier for development. The region will have to address the challenges of ocean governance and security, including piracy, the delineation of ocean borders and the sharing of transboundary resources. The African Union Commission has already developed regional frameworks to support the development of the ocean economy. These include:

- the African Union Agenda 2063: ‘The Africa we Want’, which recognises that Africa’s Blue economy shall be a major contributor to continental transformation and growth, advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport and fishing; and exploitation of and beneficiation from deep sea mineral and other resources.”
- the “2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIMStrategy) and its Plan of Action, which outlines the actions to foster increased wealth creation from Africa’s oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy in an environmentally secure and sustainable manner.
- The Africa Blue Economy Strategy (2019) which provides guidance to AU member states and regional institutions for the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy, by laying out the priority actions for harnessing the potential and maximizing the opportunities for a more evolved and effective blue economy in Africa. The strategy focuses on five critical blue economy vectors: (i) fisheries, aquaculture and ecosystems conservation, (ii) shipping transportation and trade, (iii) sustainable energy, extractive minerals, gas, innovative industries, (iv) environmental sustainability, climate change and coastal infrastructure, and (v) governance, institutions and social actions.

The African Union has also declared the period 2015-2025 as the Africa’s Decade of Seas and Oceans, and 25 July the African Day of Oceans and Seas.

All these actions point to a continent that recognizes the importance of its ocean resources and is determined to ensure that they are sustainably used for development.

The theme will bring energy to the Decade of African Sea and Oceans (2015-2025) and support efforts to reverse the decline in ocean health, create improved conditions for relying on oceans for sustainable development, structure and boost corresponding scientific efforts at national and international level, and empower governments and societies with science based solutions.

The theme will explore the opportunities provided by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) to achieve these.

The theme will also explore the advances in implementation of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, which aims to enable States Parties to better protect their submerged cultural heritage. It sets out basic principles for the protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage and provides widely recognized practical rules for the treatment and research of Underwater Cultural Heritage. It embraces the concept that heritage is a common asset encouraging responsible public access, knowledge sharing and public enjoyment.

The theme will be structured along the following sub-themes:

4.1: Oceans of Peace and Opportunity: resources, demographic dividend, gender parity, blue economy, scientific cooperation and diplomacy, South-South cooperation:

The continent's vast ocean territories provide opportunities for fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, coastal tourism, offshore oil and gas and other blue economy related activities. However natural processes and human activities are increasing pressures on the ocean ecosystems, leading to coastal erosion, pollution, ocean acidification, natural disasters and other negative impacts. The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) provides an opportunity to develop transformative solutions to the challenges that the region faces. The improvement of infrastructure and facilities for research, provision of capacity building and training for scientific and technical staff, as well as evidence-based research for translation of science to policy are some of the key priorities that need to be addressed. Others include ocean observations and monitoring, the role of youth and job creation, marine spatial planning, climate change impacts on the coastal zones, land-sea interactions and pollution, and innovative financing models for the ocean economy, but also the importance of the ocean in the promotion of a culture of peace. Ocean literacy programmes will enable the coastal populations, and the youth in schools, colleges and universities to build a broader understanding of the economic, social, and cultural values of the ocean by society and the plurality of roles that it plays to underpin health, well-being and sustainable development. Communication and sensitization actions around the connection between underwater cultural heritage, local communities and intangible cultural heritage, including endogenous practices of African water peoples for the preservation of their marine environment and especially the possibilities for coastal and island states in Africa to explore the potentialities offered by the maritime heritage, are also key for its preservation. The role of the media and the relevance of data journalism for creating more awareness on the risks and the opportunities to effectively unlock the potential of oceans will also be considered closely.

Throughout history, the oceans have been one of the main theatres of human conflict. The lure of domination and gain-the desire for power, territory and control of resources-have invariably been at the origin of such conflict. In an increasingly compact world where disparities of wealth and opportunity continue to grow, the risks of friction will be great unless we are successful in steering a new course in the direction of a "culture of peace." The culture of peace implies a change of mentalities. It presupposes attitudes of understanding and tolerance towards others, a greater readiness to share resources of all kinds, a more harmonious relationship with nature, a commitment to the force of reason rather than the logic of force, and the progressive establishment of forms of global governance which, in the words of Nelson Mandela, "ensure that people everywhere can live in an environment of democracy, peace and prosperity." [Federico Mayor, The Oceans and the Culture of Peace, IOC Technical Series n47, UNESCO, 1997](#), Page 9.

TOPICS FOR PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- Ocean governance in Africa, including transboundary challenges and the management of areas beyond national jurisdiction;
- Creation of a new generation of ocean professionals and unlocking scientific excellence through skills development, mentoring and opportunities for employment for Africa's youthful population;
- The Oceans and the Culture of Peace (this can include an exhibition targeting Associated Schools Networks, based on which an online exhibition could be foreseen);
- Addressing coastal vulnerability to climate change and other environmental stressors (including marine pollution) in Africa;
- Ocean Sciences (including observations and mapping of the Ocean environment and resources) in support of integrated ocean and coastal management;
- Early warning for ocean related hazards such as cyclones and storm surges;
- Data journalism on oceans for climate change awareness and mitigation.

RELEVANT UNESCO PROJECTS

4.1.1: Integrated Coastal Area Management, Marine Spatial Planning and Sustainable Blue Economy

Marine spatial planning (MSP) is a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives. MSP emphasizes the importance of balancing the needs of different sectors of the economy to ensure sustainable development while protecting the marine environment from environmental pressures. This requires accurate data on the environmental stressors such as pollution and climate change and their impacts.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) and the European Commission are implementing a Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide. This roadmap identifies common priorities and concrete proposals for actions to be implemented to increase the world's exclusive economic zones (EEZ) covered by MSP processes from almost 10% to 1/3 by 2030.

IOC organized a series of national consultations on Marine Spatial Planning in Africa and the adjacent island states as part of this initiative 2020, covering in particular: Cameroun, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique and Tanzania and a regional workshop for the Gulf of Guinea with support from the Government of Sweden.

Partners: National governments in Africa and the Adjacent Island States, WIOMSA, UNEP (Abidjan and Nairobi Convention), Government of Sweden.

4.1.2: Skills Development for Ocean Sciences and Services

The implementation of the second phase of the OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA-2), supported by the Government of Flanders, Belgium commenced in early 2020, with an invitation sent to member states of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO calling for proposals from academic and research institutes interested in hosting regional or specialized training centres. OTGA-2 builds on the

legacy of the OceanTeacher Global Academy Project (2015–2019) and addresses new initiatives and challenges such as the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. New, ready to deliver course topics will be made available online. The network of Regional and Specialised Training Centres (RTC/STC) will deliver specific training topics online and on blended or face to face mode. Training topics will tools that can help Member States achieving the SDGs as well as emerging topics such as Ocean Acidification and Blue Carbon, inter alia. OTGA2 will foster collaborations beyond UNESCO/IOC to position itself as the training platform for ocean-related topics within the UN and beyond.

The following three institutions from Africa were among those designated as Regional Training Centres from over 20 applications received worldwide. They will support the capacity development programme of the IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States in close collaboration with the IOC Global Programmes: (i) University of Ghana: Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences (DMFS), Accra, Ghana, (ii) Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Mombasa, Kenya, and (iii) Eduardo Mondlane University, Center for Marine Research and Technology, Maputo, Mozambique.

Partners: Flanders-UNESCO Science Trust Fund (FUST), FAO/EAFNANSEN programme

4.1.3: Regional Implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and linkages to the African Decade of Oceans and Seas

The oceans are gaining currency as the next frontier for Africa's development, with increasing countries exploring how to best harness its resources for sustainable development. The continent is endowed with vast ocean territories, providing opportunities for fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, coastal tourism, offshore oil and gas and other blue economy related activities. However natural processes and human activities are increasing pressures on the ocean ecosystems, leading to coastal erosion, pollution, ocean acidification, natural disasters and other negative impacts. There are large gaps in knowledge of the resources available and impact of different types of pressures on the ocean ecosystems.

The United Nation's Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) will provide an opportunity to structure and boost scientific efforts through a global collective research and investment framework to close the knowledge gaps. The Regional Consultative Workshop on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (27-29 January 2020, Nairobi, Kenya) was hosted by the Government of Kenya, and the virtual workshop on "Co-designing the Ocean Science we need for Africa" was held on 3 November 2020 offered a crucial opportunity to co-design mission-oriented research strategies and actions in line with the 2030 Agenda and continental and regional initiatives such as the African Union Agenda 2063: 'The Africa we Want' and 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIMS), and the African Blue Economy Strategy. Capacity development was identified as a priority, in particular the improvement of infrastructure and facilities for research, provision of training for scientific and technical staff, as well as translation of science to policy.

4.1.4 Accessing and communicating information

Enhancing Media and Information Literacy (MIL) competencies among citizens is a key feature of UNESCO's strategy to promote knowledge societies and universal access to information and knowledge for good governance, in order to inspire behavior change and ensure the effectiveness of solutions developed. This

commitment will be furthered in the frame of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), to inform a step change in society's relationship with the ocean. Improved capacities, availability of guidelines/tools, and strategic multi-lingual awareness creation interventions (MIL CLICKs) are therefore vital. This will be achieved through advancing ocean literacy approaches, formal and informal educational and awareness raising tools, and through promoting measures that would ensure equitable physical access to the ocean. MIL provides answers to the questions that we all ask ourselves at some point about oceans.

How can we access, search, critically assess, use and contribute content wisely, both online and offline about oceans? What are our rights online and offline? What are the ethical issues surrounding the access and use of information? What are the available openly licensed data sets on oceans? How can we engage with media and ICTs to promote equality, intercultural dialogue, and access to information on oceans? Addressing these key questions will indeed highlight the importance of ocean as a place of wonder and inspiration, and contribute to influencing the next generation of scientists, policy makers, government officials, managers and innovators, thus contribute to an inspiring and enabling environment where society understands and values the ocean in relation to human wellbeing and sustainable development.

Partners: The secretariats of the UN Environment's Regional Seas Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions, the Benguela current Commission, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), and the Coastal Oceans Research and Development for the Indian Ocean (CORDIO).

RELEVANT EVENTS

- 8 June 2021: World Oceans Day
- 25 July 2021: African Day of Seas and Oceans.
- 18 September 2021: International Beach Clean up Day
- 7-9 December 2021: regional Kick-off conference for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, hosted by Egypt (possibly in hybrid form)
- 21 September 2021: International Day of Peace

Partners:

- ✓ UNESCO Field Offices and Sectors: NAI/IOC, NAI/SC, NAI/SHS, CAI/SC, CAI/CLT, DAK/CLT, NAI/CI, CLT xxxxxx
- ✓ Potential partners: UNEP, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, Benguela Current Commission, CORDIO, PanAfrican Youth Network for a Culture of Peace; YouthConnekt Africa Hub, Institute for Peace and Security Studies; Indentured Labor Route project, Youth Climate Change Action (YOUCAN), etc.

4.2: New experiences towards sustainable development: coastal tourism and underwater heritage, Waste management:

Many sites bearing testimony to important historical events, battles, the slave trade, natural disasters, and revolutions are found on the bottom of oceans, rivers, and lakes. Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) can reveal aspects of history that are not yet known or have not been accounted for in written records. Since water has been used since the beginning of civilization as a way to connect different worlds, the remains to be found on seabeds are testimony to cultural dialogue from the beginning of humankind. Preservation facilitates the economic benefits that underwater cultural heritage sites can generate. They can be made accessible to the public as tourist attractions through diving tourism and maritime museums, which can be significant attractions for an area or a city through the economic impact on the cultural tourism industry and the community. UCH can provide long-term opportunities for cultural and recreational tourism and contribute significantly to urban development and the economy.

This sub-theme will contribute to the promotion of the UCH Convention and the effective implementation of the UCH Convention in Africa and the Arab regions by sharing experience in capacity building programme for the UCH management. This will include highlighting the establishment of UNESCO Chair on UCH at the Centre for Maritime Archaeology and Underwater Cultural Heritage (CMAUCH) at Alexandria University in Egypt and training courses organized on UCH.

TOPICS FOR PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- Building capacity and Raising Awareness on Underwater Cultural heritage in Africa and its potential to support sustainable development
- Improving the livelihood (social, economic and cultural) of coastal populations through the development of tourism and cultural heritage protection.
- Effects of Climate Change and its impact to Underwater Cultural Heritage
- Addressing waste management, including discharges to the oceans, in coastal settlements of Africa.

RELEVANT UNESCO PROJECTS

4.2.1 Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) and Sustainable Development

The Arab region has a wealth of Underwater Cultural Heritage in its waters. Twelve member states in the Arab region are now parties to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. In response to the decision of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) for the UCH Convention that met in Algeria in 2019, UNESCO is strengthening its assistance in the capacity building for UCH management in the Arab Region. The recent outcomes in this area include the establishment of UNESCO Chair on UCH at the Centre for Maritime Archaeology and Underwater Cultural Heritage (CMAUCH) at Alexandria University in October 2020. This is the first Chair on UCH in the Arab region.

UNESCO also commissioned Dr Emad Khalil at CMAUCH a Report on UCH Education and Training in the Arab Region, mapping existing university courses and training opportunities in the Arab region. UNESCO organised the online Training of Trainers (ToT) for the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) Management for Sustainable Development in the Arab States in 2020/2021. The objective will be to contribute to the promotion of the UCH Convention and the effective implementation of the UCH Convention in Africa by sharing experience in capacity building programme for the UCH management in the Arab Region and outcomes (report, brochure, training materials, online course, etc.) with the region of Africa.

Partners

- ✓ UNESCO Chair on UCH at Centre for Maritime Archaeology and UCH at Alexandria University

4.2.2 Coastal tourism and Underwater Cultural Heritage in Eastern Africa

The 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage aims to harmonize the protection of submerged heritage, which includes ancient shipwrecks and sunken ruins, with the protection accorded to cultural heritage on land. It embraces the concept that heritage is a common asset encouraging responsible public access, knowledge sharing and public enjoyment.

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4.2.3 Strengthen management and possible future preparation of a World Heritage nomination dossier

Jardines de la Reina National Park: Technical support to strengthen management and possible future preparation of a World Heritage nomination dossier" (National Project).

Translation to Spanish of "Training manual for foundational courses on the protection and management of underwater cultural heritage", material produced by UNESCO Bangkok in 2012, and adapted for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Organization of virtual trainings to ensure diffusion and application of the Training Manual and 2001 UNESCO Convention, for contributing to the protection of underwater heritage and support the relevance

of this topic in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for both Spanish and English-speaking countries in LAC.

Partners:

- Flanders UNESCO Science in Trust Funds, UICN, Regional Office for Culture LAC, CNCU, CITMA, CNPC, CNAP, SNAP, Flora y Fauna, CUBASUB
- Cultural Heritage Agency of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands.

RELEVANT EVENTS

- 21 May 2021: World Day on Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development;
- 16 June -1 July 2021 Online Regional Capacity Building workshop for Underwater Cultural Heritage experts in Africa

Partners:

- ✓ UNESCO Field Offices and Sectors: NAI/CLT, CAI/CLT, DAK/CLT
- ✓ UNESCO Chair on UCH at Centre for Maritime Archaeology and UCH at Alexandria University
- ✓ Fondation Mohamed VI de l'Environnement- Maroc
- ✓ Surfrider foundation
- ✓ Présidente de la Fondation Mohamed VI de l'Environnement- Maroc (TBC)
- ✓ National Museums of Kenya

4.3 **The Ocean, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Challenges for Adaptation towards Sustainable Development:**

In our efforts towards achieving Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) deserve a particular attention, given the continuing challenges that SIDS face, due to their unique geographical, biological and historical legacies, as well as their social and economic characteristics, including their limited size, high levels of population displacement, vulnerability to natural and human-made disasters and high exposure to economic fluctuations and geopolitical circumstances, all of which result in severe capacity and resource constraints to implement national development goals. The context of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the Luanda Biennale for a Culture of Peace, offer a suitable framework to explore the multifaceted challenges faced by SIDS, from the social sciences perspective. The SAMOA Pathway for Sustainable Development of SIDS and the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan provides a framework for addressing priority issues for SIDS.

TOPICS FOR PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- Youth innovation, creativity and engagement as change makers in the SIDS environment
- Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building in SIDS
- Sustainability of human interactions with the ecological, freshwater and ocean systems in SIDS
- Preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promoting culture for island sustainable development;
- Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change and the SIDS
- Communicating about the SIDS: What role for the Media?

RELEVANT PROJECTS

4.3.1 UNESCO Sandwatch project

The issue of coastal protection remains one of the most important issues for SIDS and coastal countries. Most of them are faced with the problem of coastal erosion and other coastal hazards such as storm surges and tsunamis. With the threat of climate change and sea-level rise countries need to be informed and to take appropriate adaptive approaches. In this context, UNESCO decided to develop the Sandwatch project, a citizen science and participatory approach which seeks to enhance the knowledge of island and coastal communities to respond to environmental change affecting their marine and coastal environments and build resilience to climate change. Based on simplified scientific protocols, Sandwatch methodology is based on the “MAST” approach (Monitoring, Analysing, Sharing, Taking action) to maintaining healthy beaches and ecosystems through scientific monitoring of beach changes to inform effective action. Through Sandwatch, school students, teachers, civil society and local communities work together to monitor their coastal environments, identify problems, critically evaluate them, and develop sustainable solutions.. Sandwatch carries a transdisciplinary portfolio and is a good example of Education for Sustainable Development – an approach to teaching and learning that seeks to empower and encourage people of all ages to assume responsibility for creating and enjoying a sustainable future.

Partners: UNESCO’s platform for Environment and Development in Coastal Regions and Small Islands, UNESCO Associated Schools and the DESD Coordination at UNESCO Headquarters.

4.3.2 Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change and the SIDS

From the need to support SIDS Member States in mobilizing knowledge to strengthen policy-making processes, including foresight capabilities and futures literacy, improved data collection systems and upgraded analytical skills for resilience building to shedding more light on the relevance of the UNESCO Declaration on Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change in this process, it will be essential to assess the social transformations of the SIDS, through the lens of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme. In doing so, it is essential to also tackle the emerging trends and opportunities for SIDS investment in the demographic dividend of youth, and to consider collective action of young people, women, civil society and vulnerable groups, critical to the attainment of productive and healthy livelihood outcomes for SIDS communities. Youth innovation, creativity and engagement as change makers in the SIDS environment will be particularly considered to increase their level of participation in developing and implementing national social and other related policies is, thus, crucial in achieving sustainability and improved quality of life of SIDS communities, all pre-requisite for peace.

Annex 1 – Sum-up table

| Thematic Forums | Thematic Panels | Best practices | Partners | Country(ies) |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------|
| Harnessing the Potential of Oceans for Sustainable Development and Peace | Oceans of Peace and Opportunity: resources, demographic dividend, gender parity, blue economy, scientific cooperation and diplomacy, South-South cooperation | Integrated Coastal Area Management, Marine Spatial Planning and Sustainable Blue Economy | National governments in Africa and the Adjacent Island States, WIOMSA, UNEP (Abidjan and Nairobi Convention), Government of Sweden. | |
| | | Skills Development for Ocean Sciences and Services | Flanders-UNESCO Science Trust Fund (FUST), FAO/EAFNANSEN programme | |
| | | Regional Implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and linkages to the African Decade of Oceans and Seas | TBD | |
| | | Accessing and communicating information | The secretariats of the UN Environment's Regional Seas Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions, the Benguela current Commission, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), and the Coastal Oceans Research and Development for the Indian Ocean (CORDIO). | East Africa |
| | New experiences towards sustainable development: coastal tourism and underwater heritage, Waste management | Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) and Sustainable Development | UNESCO Chair on UCH at Centre for Maritime Archaeology and UCH at Alexandria University | Egypt |
| | Coastal tourism and Underwater Cultural | TBD | East African | |

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| | | Heritage in Eastern Africa | | |
| | | Strengthen management and possible future preparation of a World Heritage nomination dossier | Flanders UNESCO Science in Trust Funds, UICN, Regional Office for Culture LAC, CNCU, CITMA, CNPC, CNAP, SNAP, Flora y Fauna, CUBASUB; Cultural Heritage Agency of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands. | |
| | The Ocean, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Challenges for Adaptation towards Sustainable Development | UNESCO Sandwatch project | UNESCO's platform for Environment and Development in Coastal Regions and Small Islands, UNESCO Associated Schools and the DESD Coordination at UNESCO Headquarters. | Caribbean Sea: Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe (France), Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, San Andres Archipelago, St.Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the US Virgin Islands Indian Ocean: Dubai (United Arab Emirates), Indonesia, The Maldives, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mayotte, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Zanzibar Pacific Ocean: Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand Africa: Ghana, Kenya, Gambia, Tanzania Others: Azores (Portugal), Brazil, Mexico, Wales (UK), France |
| | | Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change and the SIDS | TBD | |