

**Report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, on the topic of “Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”**  
**Contribution by UNCTAD, Policy and Legislation Section, TLB/DTL**

As recognized by the General Assembly (A/RES/72/73), in its decision to proclaim the [United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#), starting in 2021, ocean science plays a key role for global society as a whole and generates the scientific knowledge, data and information needed for effective implementation of many of the sustainable development goals and targets that collectively make up the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Relevant data and information are critically required for the purposes of monitoring progress – notably on SDG 14, which focuses on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources – and to inform risk assessment, as well as decision - and policymaking, including in response to the important challenges of increasing climate variability and change.

Thus,

which depend on their ports and airports for food and energy needs, external trade and – crucially – tourism, which typically accounts for a major share of GDP. In this context it is important for to explore ways to generate the necessary financial resources, especially for developing countries.

