



2018 United Nations World Oceans Day Celebration and Panel Discussion

Statement

by

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Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, United Nations Legal Counsel and UN-Oceans Focal Point, I am pleased to welcome you to this World Oceans Day celebration and panel discussion entitled, “Clean our Ocean: Youth and Innovation.”

In line with the theme of this year’s World Oceans Day, the panel today will focus on youth and innovation, which both play fundamental roles in cleaning our oceans and in ensuring their future sustainability and well-being.

Life on earth is centered around our oceans. From the very air we breathe to the food and systems that sustain life, our oceans are a resource that must be cared for by current and future generations.

Today, more than ever, young people are taking leadership roles in cleaning and protecting our planet’s most precious resource. Recognizing that the oceans’ future depends on them, the impressive and inspiring actions taken by youth to be highlighted today reflect the growing global understanding that their energy, creativity and enthusiasm is crucial to solving the problems that our oceans face today.

By bringing innovative ideas to the table, along with passion and encouragement to us all, the youth here today remind us that ocean stewardship and care is an inter-generational endeavour in which we are all stakeholders and to which all of us can contribute.

