



G20 Ocean Dialogues

Tripling Ambition: Advancing Offshore Renewables for Ocean Climate Action

August 14, 2024, 9:00 am ET | Virtual

Background

OCEANS20, as the first engagement group focusing on Ocean in the G20, marks a historic milestone. It offers an opportunity to integrate financing for the ocean-climate nexus and transition to a sustainable blue economy, elevating the Ocean as a source of solutions for a stable global economy. OCEANS20 is convening a series of Ocean Dialogues, bringing together experts and leaders to share insights, exchange knowledge, and explore opportunities for marine conservation and a sustainable blue economy. This dialogue proposes actionable solutions to leverage the ocean's potential in addressing climate change and fostering a clean energy future.

Introduction

The ocean is a crucial ally in protecting society from the severe impacts of a fossil fuel-dependent world. In the transition to a clean energy future, the ocean can continue to play a vital role. Analysis by the High-Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy shows that ocean-based climate mitigation solutions can contribute as much as 35% of the emissions reductions needed to stay on track with 1.5 degrees of warming. Ocean-based renewable energy and phasing out offshore oil and gas are by far the two biggest opportunities. Over a third of the emissions reduction from the ocean is expected to come from offshore wind, making it an invaluable solution to combat climate change and protect the ocean.

Currently, there are 315 operating offshore wind farms worldwide, with G20 members accounting for 99% of installed offshore wind capacity. To reach 2000 GW by 2050, an average of 70 GW per year must be deployed. Increasingly, governments in developing countries prioritize offshore wind as a component or foundational element of their national energy strategies and include it in their future energy mix. However, a lack of concessional finance available for pathfinder offshore wind projects in these nations and regions jeopardizes the ambition of these countries to advance responsible offshore wind.

As part of the Marrakech Partnership Ocean Breakthroughs launched ahead of COP28 last year, Ocean Conservancy, an international ocean conservation non-profit, and Orsted, a leading wind energy developer, championed the Offshore Renewable Energy Breakthrough. The Ocean Breakthrough goal is to install at least 380 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030, establishing targets and enabling measures for net-positive biodiversity outcomes. It also advocates for \$10 billion in concessional finance for offshore wind in emerging and developing countries. This initiative is one of the five tipping points proposed by the Ocean Stewardship Coalition.



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AGENDA

9: 00 - 9:15 **Opening Remarks**

Hon. John Kerry, Former Secretary of State and Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States
Erik Giercksky, Head of the Action Platform for Ocean, United Nations Global Compact
Amisha Patel, Head of Secretariat, Global Offshore Wind Alliance

9:15 - 9:20 **Presentation**

Shamini Selvaratnam, Associate Director of International Climate and Clean Energy, Ocean Conservancy

9:20 - 10:05 **Panel: Strategies for Sustainable Offshore Wind Expansion: Concessional Finance and Biodiversity**

Ingrid Reumert, Senior Vice President of Group Stakeholder Relations, Ørsted
Alfredo Giron, Head, Ocean Action Agenda World Economic Forum
Charlotte Mogensen, Director Ocean Conservation, Velux Foundation
Cristina Simioli, Director, Offshore Energy and Nature, Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature
Rebecca Williams, Global Head of Offshore Wind, Global Wind Energy Council

Moderator: Shamini Selvaratnam, Associate Director of International Climate and Clean Energy, Ocean Conservancy

10:05 -10:40 **Panel – Tripling Ambition in NDCs: Advancing Offshore Renewables for Climate Impact**

Hanne Jersild Chief Adviser, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities, Denmark
Meaghan Cuddy, Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States
Juan Pablo Hoffmaister, Associate Vice President, Global Cooperation, Environmental Defense Fund
Simon Benmarraze, Team lead, Technology and Infrastructure, International Renewable Energy Agency

Moderator: Anna Marie Laura, Senior Director, Climate Policy

10.40 – 10.45 **Closing Remarks**

Karen Sack, Executive Director of the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA)

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



HON. JOHN KERRY

John Kerry is a distinguished American politician and diplomat who served as the **68th U.S. Secretary of State**. A key architect of the Paris Agreement on climate change, he has long been an advocate for environmental issues and international diplomacy. He also served as the **inaugural U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate**, leading efforts to combat global climate change until March 2024.



ERIK GIERCKSKY

Erik **heads the Action Platform for Ocean** at the **United Nations Global Compact**. He leads efforts to engage businesses, governments, and civil society in exploring sustainable practices within ocean industries. Erik started his career as an Advisor for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was part of the team that led Norway's work with peace processes in different parts of the world.



AMISHA PATEL

Amisha is currently **Interim Head of Secretariat** for the **Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA)**, leads the initiative's global expansion. On secondment from the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), she brings over 20 years of experience in policy and public affairs, advocating for clean energy transitions across Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Her work focuses on establishing market, policy, and regulatory frameworks essential for offshore wind development.



KAREN SACK

Karen is the **Executive Director** of the **Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA)**, a multi-sector coalition of governments, finance, insurance companies, and civil society organizations. ORRAA pioneers innovative finance products that drive investment into marine and coastal natural capital, reduce ocean risks and build resilience in coastal communities. She previously served as CEO of Ocean Unite co-founded with Sir Richard Branson and José María Figueres, as Senior Director for International Oceans at The Pew Charitable Trusts.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



INGRID REUMERT

Ingrid is the **Senior Vice President of Group Stakeholder Relations** at **Ørsted**. A member of the Group Executive Management, she plays a central role in driving Ørsted's global strategy on stakeholder engagement and sustainability. Ingrid is also an influential voice in the energy and climate sectors, chairing the Danish Government's Council for Energy Efficient Transition and serving as Vice Chair of the Climate Partnership for the Built Environment. Her leadership extends to roles on several advisory boards, including the UN Global Compact Denmark and the IEA's Advisory Committee for Energy Efficiency.



ALFREDO GIRÓN NAVA

Alfredo **heads the World Economic Forum's Ocean Action Agenda**, driving strategies to foster sustainable ocean practices. His work spans marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, and the blue economy, influencing policy in over 15 countries. Before joining the Forum, he held a fellowship at Stanford's Center for Ocean Solutions and led initiatives against illegal fishing.



CHARLOTTE MOGENSEN

Charlotte is the **Grant Area Director for the Conservation of the Ocean program** at the **Velux Foundation**. Her previous roles include serving as Special Ocean Advisor to Denmark's Ministry of Environment and Deputy Secretary for the OSPAR Convention. Mogensen has also contributed to global ocean policy as a Fisheries Policy Officer with WWF, focusing on sustainable marine practices.



REBECCA WILLIAMS

Rebecca is **Chief Strategy Officer for Offshore Wind** at the **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)**. She leads efforts to accelerate offshore wind adoption globally, engaging with governments and stakeholders across APAC, MENA, Europe, and the Americas. Williams plays a pivotal role in aligning global wind energy strategies with key international organizations, including the UN and World Bank.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



CRISTINA SIMIOLI

Cristina is the **Director of Offshore Energy and Nature** at the **Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature**. Her work is focused on fostering collaboration to harmonize energy infrastructure with environmental conservation. Her career spans roles in environmental NGOs, a UN agency, and an engineering consultancy, where she developed expertise in stakeholder engagement and cross-sectoral partnerships aimed at sustainable energy development.



HANNE JERSILD

Hanne is the **Chief Adviser at Denmark's Ministry of Climate, Energy, and Utilities**, where she plays a significant role in shaping the country's climate and energy policies. She represents Denmark on the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) Trust Fund Committee within the Climate Investment Funds. Hanne was also instrumental in supporting the establishment of the Global Offshore Wind Alliance. Previously she was the Senior Advisor on Climate and Energy Policy at WWF.



JUAN PABLO HOFFMAISTER

Juan Pablo is the **Associate Vice President of Global Cooperation** at the **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**. He focuses on multilateral climate finance and adaptation issues, identifies strategic opportunities, and develops international advocacy initiatives. Previously, he was the Multilateral Governance Manager at the Green Climate Fund, where he led engagement with the UNFCCC and managed strategic relationships with multilateral funds.



SIMON BENMARRAZE

Simon **leads the Technology and Innovations team** at the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**. He oversees renewable energy technology and infrastructure initiatives. His prior experience includes roles as a Renewable Energy Project Developer at Solar Euromed and a Business Improvement Manager at CRH. Benmarraze holds a Master's in Materials Engineering, an MBA, and has furthered his studies through an exchange program at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.

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MEAGHAN CUDDY

Meaghan is an **Ocean Policy Analyst** at the **U.S. Department of State**, where she leads a portfolio focused on the ocean-climate nexus and ocean-based climate solutions. Meaghan has been instrumental in supporting U.S. delegations at major multilateral engagements, including the UNFCCC, BBNJ, UNOC, and Our Ocean Conferences. As a co-drafter of the national Ocean Acidification Action Plan, Ocean Climate Action Plan, and Ocean Justice Strategy, she plays a key role in shaping U.S. policy at the intersection of ocean health and climate action



ANNA MARIE LAURA

Anna-Marie is the **Senior Director of Climate Policy** at **Ocean Conservancy**, where she leads the climate program. She is the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector Co-Lead of the Marakkesh Partnership For Global Climate Action Ocean and Coastal Zones. Previously, she served as Director of Policy and Strategic Partnerships at Rare, an international conservation and development organization. Earlier in her career, Anna-Marie was the Ocean and Coastal Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.



SHAMINI SELVARATNAM

Shamini is the **Associate Director of International Climate and Clean Energy** at **Ocean Conservancy**. She currently sits on the Steering Committee of the Global Offshore Wind Alliance. With extensive experience in building strategic partnerships and shaping international policies, she has worked across the private sector, governments, and multilateral institutions. Her career includes key roles at the UNDP as Energy Partnerships Lead for the Sustainable Energy Hub, and at the World Bank, working with the Sustainable Renewables Risk Mitigation Initiative.