Key highlights from the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, especially from the High-Level Symposium on Water – “Bridging SDG 6 and SDG 14”

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High-Level Symposium on Water

Lisbon | 27th June 2022

Localizing Action for the Ocean: Local and Regional Governments (Matosinhos, 25 June)

Youth and Innovation Forum (Cascais, 24-26 June)

High Level Symposium on Water “Bridging SDG 6 and SDG 14” (Altice Arena (Blue Zone), afternoon 27 of June)

Sustainable Blue Economy Investment Forum (28 June, Cascais)
One of the preparatory meetings for UN Water 2023

UNGA Resolution 21 december 2020 – UN A/RES75/212

ROADMAP TO THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE ON THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE UN WATER ACTION DECADE
Key findings - Source to Sea Management

- This High-Level Symposium confirmed that there is still a huge gap when it comes to source-to-sea approaches.

- Water management and ocean health are at risk and, consequently, the full Agenda 2030 is at risk.

- Closing the remaining gaps in access to safe drinking water, sanitation or even waste management is crucial, if we want a healthy ocean.

- Ocean is part of the hydrological cycle, and its health depends, to a large extent, on how inland and coastal waters and associated ecosystems, as well as water and sanitation services, are managed.

- Transboundary cooperation on shared river basins planning and management, as well as in coastal zones, must be strengthened and consolidated to respond to all the challenges “from source to sea”.

- It is necessary to reinforce the co-work of decision makers and researchers in the performance of public policies and coordinating mechanisms among these political areas.

- More international attention should be paid to this interlinkage between fresh and salt water. A lot is still needed to put these communities in greater connection!
Key findings - Source to Sea Management

- Without safe water and sanitation, the reduction of marine pollution from wastewater and stormwater cannot be achieved.

- The adoption of a holistic approach form “source to sea” is critical to a circular vision on human water use and to create financial, legal, and regulatory instruments that are essential for the implementation of these public policies.

- It is fundamental to provide the same and better services with less resources to evolve from a concept of linear infrastructures to circular infrastructures.

- It is crucial that usual top/down approaches are complemented with bottom/up approaches, to guarantee an increasing involvement of local communities;

- There are already have good examples of local, bilateral projects, with public and private partners, but it is necessary to accelerate actions on the ground and to scale up successful solutions.

- It is essential to strengthen and improve communication on the value of water, so that society adopts better daily practices to protect and conserve this resource, whether fresh or salt.

- It is essential a paradigm shift and to manage water, in political terms, as a precious resource.
Outstanding opportunity to raise political ambition and commitment with the water agenda, including source-to-sea approaches.

High Level Symposium Chair’s Summary will be delivered to the UN and UN 2023 Conference Co-Hosts (Tajikistan and Netherlands), as an input for the discussions.
Thank You!