



The International Business Alliance
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

News Release

REGISTER NOW – BLUE ECONOMY AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 15-16 OCTOBER

**WOC Encourages Participation in 15th Annual Global Forum on Human Settlements:
“Post-Pandemic Recovery and Transformation: Resilient Cities, Healthy Planet”**

2 October 2020

With the theme of “Post-Pandemic Recovery and Transformation: Resilient Cities, Healthy Planet”, the 15th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS2020) (15-16 October) brings together dignitaries from numerous countries, senior officials from the U.N. and international organizations, leaders of multinational enterprises, as well as experts and scholars for a range of thematic discussions.

Key issues to be covered at the GFHS2020 include: Preserving and sustainably managing biodiversity and guaranteeing ecological security; Integrated climate, hydrology and environment services for sustainable cities; Building urban resilience to climate change; Blue economy and healthy ocean; Blockchain technology and smart urban governance, amongst other topics.

The WOC is a Partner of the GFHS2020. WOC CEO and Founding President Paul Holthus has been invited to speak in Thematic Forum 1B: Blue Economy and Healthy Ocean on Day 1 (15 October).

With COVID-19 projected to become a “new normal”, human society will be reshaped – and the first and foremost agenda is to ensure that cities are safer, securer and healthier, become increasingly resilient to pandemic, climate and various ecological crises, and are closely linked to rural areas and nature to enable interactions in a positive and synergistic way. Resilient Cities need to be put in a better position to protect and enhance people's lives, secure development gains, foster an investible environment and drive positive change. Only by maintaining ecological integrity and reinforcing urban resilience can we foresee a future that is safe, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable.

[Registration is now open at this link.](http://www.gfhsforum.org/GFHS---2020) Simultaneous interpretation between English and Chinese will be provided throughout the online conference. For more information, visit <http://www.gfhsforum.org/GFHS---2020>.

Blue Economy by the Numbers

Percentage of global population living in cities with over 100,000 inhabitants that are within 100 km from the coast: **50%**

Source: Analysis and trends of the world's coastal cities and agglomerations. Juan Manuel Barragán, Mariáde Andrés. Ocean & Coastal Management, Vol 114, September 2015, Pages 11-20

Recent and Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

27 September - 2 October, Florida/Online Conference

[Underwater Minerals Conference \(UMC\) 2020](#) (Speaker, Sponsor)

1-2 October, Online Conference

[Reuters Offshore and Floating Wind Europe](#) (Speaker)

6-8 October, Rotterdam/Online Conference

[World Conference on Floating Solutions](#) (Keynote Speaker, Partner)

12-13 October, Online Seminar

[African Development Institute \(ADI\) Global Community of Practice Seminar – Financing Natural Capital: Policies for Value Chain Development in Natural Resources in Post COVID-19 Africa](#) (Keynote Speaker, Partner)

14-16 October, Online Event

[CMA Shipping](#) (Speaker, Supporting Organization)

15-16 October, Online Event

[Global Forum on Human Settlements 2020](#) (Speaker, Partner)

World Ocean Council (WOC) – The Global Blue Economy Business Organization

The WOC is the international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership, collaboration and action on ocean sustainability, stewardship and science. Companies from a range of industries worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”, including: shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology and investment.

WOC Members are listed [here](#), a part of the WOC Network of 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US and France.

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