

# About the Governors and Mayors Convention



The Governors and Mayors Convention will take place on November 27, 2018 at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference. Hundreds of governors, mayors and local governments of cities and towns bordering oceans, lakes and rivers will come together to discuss their crucial role in the blue economy.

This convention features a range of activities over a full day including formal leadership sessions, panel and expert presentations, and interactive discussions that recognize the critical connection between the world and its coastal communities.

## Objectives

The Governors and Mayors Convention provides many opportunities for participants to connect, collaborate and discuss topics of relevance and benefit to coastal communities, such as:

**Connect, collaborate and discuss topics of relevance and benefit to coastal communities.**

- how to build better and more sustainable coastal towns and cities around the blue economy
- financing and management
- building partnerships that maximize the opportunities to protect our blue economy – between cities and towns, countries and continents around the world
- using better governance to improve the economic and social transformation of coastal communities
- new and emerging technologies and innovations to help accelerate sustainable development within the blue economy sector

## Urban space and the blue economy

Urbanization is essential to the world's development and an integral part of the blue economy. Urban space accounts for 54% of the total global population and is forecast to rise to 66% by 2050. This growth is putting pressure on water bodies and environments around coastal communities. The waste generated from these areas reduces oxygen levels in the water, affecting marine habitat and wildlife. This creates marine dead zones.

About 80% of waste material in urban spaces is generated by human activity. Cities and towns:

- contribute to rising levels of greenhouse gases, causing climate change
- present huge governance challenges for addressing the inclusion of all members of society and potential crime that can occur when citizens feel alienated from their communities

## Participants

- mayors and governors of towns and cities that border oceans, lakes or other water bodies

- ministers of oceans, seas and environment
- ministers of agriculture and fisheries
- ministers of economy
- ministers of tourism
- captains of industry
- interested citizens

## Form new partnerships

The convention has built-in opportunities to network, connect and form strategic partnerships with:

- governments
- youth groups
- the private sector
- civil society organizations
- United Nations agencies, such as the:
  - UN Environment
  - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
  - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

