Ocean governance and Ethics

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Ethics goes beyond a set of principles, it is a reasoned reflection for acting well and adopting behaviours that will make the world lastingly habitable for all. The ocean space and its resources are a commons that cannot be owned by states beyond a certain limit. As a commons it is open to the international community of states, and its use is subject to international administration and management for the common good of all humanity. Where areas of ocean space and resources exist within national jurisdiction, states regulate and manage use on behalf of all mankind, not solely for the benefit of national interests (adapted from Taylor Prue, 2011)

Marine resources are considered as commons goods, it's first of all resources that we want to share and promote. Common goods traditionally constitute a problem for collective actions that can lead to the overexploitation of the resource. Dr Elinor Ostrom, Nobel prize in economy, analysed why and how individuals can manage common goods outside traditional frameworks of economic science through institutions. She demonstrated the existence of collective ownership regimes, explaining their functioning and identifying criteria characterizing organizations that have last over time. If we consider the marine resources as commons, it implies that all the stakeholders, interested parties are involved in the decision-making process, suggesting a reflection on the integration of the civil society in decision body, in the High sea, the Area, beyond national jurisdiction and in zone under national jurisdiction.
This presentation will bring a refreshed vision of marine resources, mineral and natural, as mankind heritage.

1)Taylor, Prue. 2011. "Common Heritage of Mankind Principle." In Klaus Bosselmann, Daniel Fogel, and J. B. Ruhl, Eds. The Encyclopedia of Sustainability, Vol. 3: The Law and Politics of Sustainability. 64–69. Great Barrington, MA. Berkshire Publishing