

## **Informal briefing by the President of the General Assembly on the ongoing preparations for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

The President of the United Nations General Assembly Peter Thomson convened an informal briefing on Tuesday, 13 December 2016 for Member States and stakeholders on the ongoing preparations for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 to be held in New York from 5-9 June 2017 as well as its preparatory meeting on 15-16 February 2017.

The representatives of the Co-Presidents of the Conference, Fiji and Sweden, H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Luke Daunivalu, Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, as well as the Secretary-General of the Conference, Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo, and Under-Secretary-General Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Special Adviser to the Co-Presidents on oceans and legal matters and the Focal Point for UN-Oceans participated in the briefing and made remarks.

The speakers highlighted that the Ocean Conference will be a great opportunity for Member States and all stakeholders to assess challenges, identify concrete actions, as well as to strengthen partnerships to advance the implementation of SDG 14 on oceans and seas. They provided information on the organizational work of the Conference, including the Conference's format, outcomes, preparatory process, documentation, trust fund, side events and exhibitions, and information of invitation and registration for Member States, UN system and other organizations, as well as for the major groups and other stakeholders.

A number of representatives from Member States made comments, in which they expressed strong support to the Ocean Conference. They underscored a holistic approach to address challenges in dealing with oceans, seas and marine resources, as well as in the implementation of SDG 14 targets. They emphasized the need to avoid duplication of the Ocean Conference with other relevant processes, to strengthen related legal frameworks and instruments, and to link the Ocean Conference with the high-level political forum (HLPF) with providing inputs to its review, and to support LDCs' participation in the Conference and the preparatory meeting with making contributions to the trust fund.

The briefing had a [webcast](http://webtv.un.org/watch/informal-briefing-by-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-on-the-oceans-conference/5246554677001) (<http://webtv.un.org/watch/informal-briefing-by-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-on-the-oceans-conference/5246554677001>).