



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 January 2017

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 3 November 2016 regarding the convening on 15 and 16 February 2017 a Preparatory Meeting of 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.

In this regard, I attach the letter from the Co-facilitators of the preparatory process, H.E. Mr. Álvaro Mendonça e Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal and H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations which provides the Draft Programme of Work for the Preparatory Meeting. The Co-facilitators will also hold an informal briefing on Wednesday, 1 February 2017 from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. in conference room 3, where they will provide additional information on the two-day Preparatory Meeting in February.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

To all Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



New York, January 23, 2017

Excellency,

We are pleased to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators appointed by the President of the General Assembly to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action" 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 General Assembly, in resolution 70/303, requested the President of the General Assembly to convene a two-day preparatory meeting, in February 2017, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, to be chaired by the two co-facilitators, with a view to considering the themes for the partnership dialogues and elements for a "Call for Action". The President of the General Assembly in his letter dated 3 November 2016 conveyed his decision to convene the preparatory meeting on 15 and 16 February 2017.

Resolution 70/303 also requested that the co-facilitators present the draft "Call for Action" no later than March 2017, and states that intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action" are to be concluded by May 2017.

In preparation for the two-day preparatory meeting and intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action", we would like to invite you to attend an informal briefing on Wednesday, 01 February 2017 from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. in conference room 3. At the informal briefing, the Secretary-General's background note for the preparatory meeting as well as a tentative programme of work for the preparatory meeting will be presented. The tentative programme of work for the preparatory meeting is attached to the present letter.

We look forward to your active participation in and support of this process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Álvaro Mendonça e Moura p.p.
Ambassador
and Permanent Representative
of Portugal to the United Nations

Burhan Gafoor
Ambassador
and Permanent Representative
of Singapore to the United Nations



Draft Programme of Work

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

Preparatory meeting

Wednesday, 15 February – Thursday, 16 February 2017
Conference Room 4, United Nations

**Theme: “Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable
Development Goal 14”**

Wednesday, 15 February	
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Álvaro Mendonça e Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, co-facilitator to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a “Call for Action”• H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations, co-facilitator to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a “Call for Action” Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the United Nations General Assembly• H.E. Ms. Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate of Sweden• Hon. Semi Koroilavesau, Minister for Fisheries of Fiji• Mr. Wu Hongbo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretary-General of the Conference• Mr. Stephen Mathias, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs (on behalf of the Legal Counsel and Special Advisor to the co-hosts of the Conference on oceans and legal matters)
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Discussion on the themes for the partnership dialogues*
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Discussion on elements for a “Call for Action” *
Thursday, 16 February	
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Discussion on elements for a “Call for Action” (continued) *

3:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Discussion on elements for a "Call for Action" (continued) *
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Closing of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wu Hongbo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretary-General of the Conference • H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations, co-facilitator to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action" • H.E. Mr. Álvaro Mendonça e Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, co-facilitator to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action"

*Participating States and other relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, and philanthropic organizations will be invited to make comments, taking into account the Secretary-General's background note for the preparatory meeting (A/71/).