

The Ocean Conference Newsletter

- from Co-Presidents Sweden & Fiji



"Now is the time to come forward with ambitious voluntary commitments to protect our oceans."

- Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden



"The Ocean is of utmost importance to Fiji. We encourage meaningful voluntary commitments and crucial partnerships for achieving SDG 14."

- Semi Koroilavesau, Minister for Fisheries of Fiji

The Preparatory Meeting

Thousands of participants gathered in New York on 15-16 February for The Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting which was facilitated by Singapore and Portugal. On the agenda were discussions on the Call for Action as well as themes for the Partnership Dialogues and twenty-five side events. The meeting was also an opportunity for all the principals of the Conference to

mobilize support to [#SaveOurOcean](#). Watch the panel discussion with President of the General Assembly, Mr. Thomson; Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Koroilavesau; Deputy Prime Minister, Ms. Lövin; and UN Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu, which was moderated by UN Under-Secretary-General Ms. Gallach [here](#) [[bit.ly/2ma7zar](#)].





Voluntary Commitments Registration: Live & Ticking

The Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting marked the official launch of the Registry of Voluntary Commitments. Three entities, a Member State, an international organization and a non-governmental organization were the first to register their commitments, and others have followed suit. Voluntary commitments are one of the core elements of The Ocean Conference aiming to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its seven targets. Commitments can be registered by individual entities or multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Any action taken towards sustainable oceans, seas and marine resources since the inception of Agenda 2030 can be registered. Voluntary commitments made up to 9 June will be included in the final Conference report. The online registry will live on beyond the Conference.

Register your Voluntary Commitment now on: oceanconference.un.org/commitments

COMMIT TO SDG 14
THE OCEAN CONFERENCE REGISTRY OF VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

REGISTER VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT

INTRODUCTION MORE INFORMATION SPECIAL LAUNCH EVENT 15 FEBRUARY 2017 Q & A REGISTER COMMITMENT

NUMBER OF COMMITMENTS: 7

REGISRCES

- 15 February 2017 - Press Release - UN calls for commitments to safeguard the world's oceans ahead of first major conference
- Guidance note on Voluntary Commitments for SDG 14 and The Ocean Conference
- Ocean Action Hub
- Contact the Conference Secretariat
- Browse commitments and partnerships on SDG 14 from previous conferences and processes

INTRODUCTION
The Ocean Conference shall adopt by consensus a concise, focused, intergovernmentally agreed declaration in the form of a "Call For Action" to support the implementation of Goal 14 and a report containing the co-chairs' summaries of the partnership dialogues, as well as a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14, to be announced at the Conference.

Voluntary commitments for The Ocean Conference are initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors - individually or in partnership - that aim to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. Any voluntary commitments made within the framework of the 2030 Agenda targeting SDG 14 can be registered as voluntary commitments for The Ocean Conference.

All stakeholders are encouraged to register voluntary commitments geared at driving implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its associated targets, in The Ocean Conference Registry of Voluntary Commitments. A list of voluntary commitments will be produced at the end of the Conference, and be included in the report of the Conference.

The First 3 Commitments!

Peaceboat committed to minimize the impacts of ocean acidification with its Ecoship project. The ship will also be a vehicle for awareness raising.

UN Environment will campaign to stop plastic pollution in the ocean. The campaign aims to secure commitments from governments, private sector enterprises and members of the general public.

Sweden committed to reach its Marine Protected Area (MPA) target in 2017 and to designate areas to protect the harbor porpoise. With the designation, four new MPAs are established and two existing MPAs are expanded to suit conservation needs.

Partnership Dialogues: Themes Are Set

The themes for the seven Partnership Dialogues, that will take place during the entire Conference week, are now finalized. Each partnership will be co-chaired by a developing and a developed State. Member States and all other stakeholders will also be able to submit their input on the seven Partnership Dialogue concept papers and recommendations for panelists and moderators to the Conference Secretariat (DESA) during March.

The following seven themes have been established following the Preparatory Meeting consultations:

1. Addressing marine pollution.
2. Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.
3. Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification.
4. Making fisheries sustainable.
5. Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.
6. Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology.
7. Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.



Call for Action: Consultations Continue

After consultations and input from Member States and other stakeholders at the Preparatory Meeting, the co-facilitators Singapore and Portugal will present a Call for Action zero draft in early March. The next round of consultations on the intergovernmentally agreed document will take place in New York 20-22 March. Stakeholders other than Member States will be able to provide their input to the co-facilitators on 24 March.





The Ocean Conference Basics

Key objective: Support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Time: 5-9 June 2017 (World Environment Day 5 June, World Oceans Day 8 June)

Location: United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Attendance: High-level attendance is encouraged throughout the entire week.

Format: 8 plenary sessions and 7 partnership dialogues

Outcomes: Call for Action, summaries of the Partnership Dialogues and list of voluntary commitments

Official Conference website: oceanconference.un.org

UNDP's Ocean Action Hub: oceanactionhub.org

Important Dates *

8 March: UN Global Compact webinar for private sector

20-22 March: Call for Action consultations

21 March: Deadline exhibition application

24 March: Deadline input to PD concept papers

24 March: Stakeholder Dialogue Call for Action

27 March - 8 May: Registration accredited stakeholders

31 March: Deadline recommendations PD panelists and moderators

31 March: Deadline side event application

15 May: Deadline non-accredited IGO application

29 May: Deadline IGOs, Member States, and Members of Regional Commission registration

* Dates & deadlines subject to change



Use Our Hashtag

#SaveOurOcean

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