



Information on Concept Papers for Partnership Dialogues of The Ocean Conference

General Assembly resolution 70/303 requests the Secretary-General 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 to prepare concept papers on each of the themes of the partnership dialogues, taking into account the relevant oceans-related processes of the General Assembly, and in that regard invites the stakeholders referred to in paragraph 3(c)¹ to submit inputs.

H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, the President of the General Assembly circulated a letter to Member States on 24 February 2017, in which he forwarded the letter from the co-facilitators of the Ocean Conference preparatory process, H.E. Mr. Alvaro Mendonça e Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal and H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations, related to the preparatory meeting of the Conference. The letter from the co-facilitators includes an annex containing the final list for the seven partnership dialogues of the Conference. The PGA's letter is available at the Conference website: <http://www.un.org/pga/71/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2015/08/The-Ocean-Conference-2017-02-24.pdf>.

Following the letter of PGA and in line with GA resolution 70/303, the Secretary-General of the Ocean Conference, Mr. Wu Hongbo sent a letter to Member States on 27 February 2017, in which he invited Member States and other stakeholders referred to in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 70/303 to submit inputs to concept papers on each of the themes of the partnership dialogues to the Secretariat by 24 March 2017. The letter is also available online at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/12894Letter_of_USG_Wu_ocean_conference_MS.pdf.

¹ A/RES/70/303, paragraph 3(c) "Involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14".

The concept papers will be drafted for each of the themes of the partnership dialogues. Member States and stakeholders may provide inputs to the following components:

a) Status and trends

b) Challenges and opportunities

c) Existing partnerships

- Are many existing partnerships covering the theme of the dialogue? Are there identified gaps in coverage?
- Who are the main actors involved in existing partnerships?
- Do we know how well existing partnerships are performing? What have been success factors? What are the main challenges identified with existing partnerships?
- Have successful partnerships on the theme been narrowly focused in scope, or more holistic, encompassing several related areas?

d) Possible areas for new partnerships

- Given challenges, opportunities and gaps, how could new partnerships help with implementation?
- What actors would need to be involved for new partnerships to succeed?
- What would be critical success factors?

e) Guiding questions for the dialogue

Please be mindful that the deadline for providing inputs to the concept papers is 24 March 2017.

For States Members and associated members of regional commissions, please send inputs to Ms. Ling Wang (wang24@un.org) and Ms. Alice Hicuburundi (hicuburundi@un.org). Intergovernmental Organizations and United Nations system entities please send inputs to Ms. Federica Pietracci (pietracci@un.org). Major groups and other stakeholders and relevant actors please send inputs to Ms. Isabela Cunha (cunhai@un.org).

The advance unedited concept papers will be available at the Conference website in early May 2017.

Due to the restriction on the length of the documents, the Secretariat may not be in the position to reflect the full contributions from Governments or other stakeholders in the concept papers. However, the full text of the contributions will be published in the Conference website.
