



2 March 2017

Your Excellency,

The oceans and seas are central to our lives, welfare and future. The current rapid decline in ocean health – with the warming and acidification of oceans, the bleaching of corals, declining fish stocks, and increasing amounts of marine litter – is alerting us that the time to mobilise the necessary leadership to protect our oceans is now. The fight against poverty and efforts to attain economic prosperity and food security are at serious risk without healthy oceans.

As co-Presidents, the Governments of Fiji and Sweden are proud to invite you to the high-level United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, to be convened at United Nations Headquarters on 5–9 June 2017. A first of its kind, ‘The Ocean Conference’ will catalyse global efforts to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for a sustainable future.

The Ocean Conference offers an opportunity to build momentum for action-oriented solutions, and its purpose is to identify ways to support the implementation of SDG 14 by encouraging all stakeholders to share experiences, provide practical recommendations and solutions, strengthen partnerships, and present ambitious voluntary commitments to advance the implementation of SDG 14 and its ten targets.

Reversing the current critical state of the oceans and seas is a global challenge that requires national, regional and global solutions. The international community must come together and take action. The engagement of all relevant stakeholders is necessary to develop sustainable solutions and initiate real change.

This is a unique window of opportunity to make a real difference for the oceans. Ambitious voluntary commitments that are translated into effective collaborative action to protect our oceans and seas are of paramount importance. We therefore encourage all United Nations Member States and other stakeholders to present their plans and priorities that contribute to the implementation of the targets under SDG 14, with a view to bringing clarity to the overall status of the implementation plans for SDG 14 on a global scale.

Given the urgency of addressing the current decline in ocean health, we have the honour to invite you to participate in The Ocean Conference.

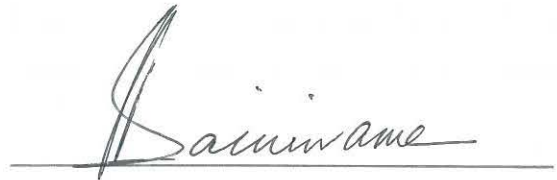
We are convinced that your participation will profoundly contribute to the overall efforts of the international community in advancing the implementation of SDG 14.

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



Isabella Lövin,

Minister for International Development
Cooperation and Climate, and Deputy Prime
Minister, Sweden



Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama

Prime Minister, Fiji

