



**Submission by the Republic of Maldives
on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States**

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), wishes to make this submission in response to the letter from Mr. Wu Hongbo, Undersecretary General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary General for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, dated 27 February 2017 (DESA-17/00373), requesting input for the concept papers being prepared on the themes for each partnership dialogue to be held during the Conference. Small island developing States (SIDS) intrinsically have special geographical and cultural ties with the oceans, many even possessing maritime zones larger than land territory. In addition, SIDS are heavily dependent on oceans, with tourism and fisheries typically being significant industries and maritime shipping being of critical importance. As such, it is essential to ensure SIDS are effectively represented, and considered during the panels and discussions during the partnership dialogues. The following are some issues which could be considered in preparing the concept papers for each of the themes of the partnerships dialogues:

- Theme 1: Addressing marine pollution
 - The issue of marine debris, plastics and microplastics
 - The issue of lost and abandoned fishing gear, including un-retrieved fish aggregating devices (FADs).
 - Sustainable consumption and production/circular economy principles.
 - Support for integrated watershed and coastal zone management in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
 - Infrastructure required to prevent the circulation of toxic waste to the sea.

- Theme 2: Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems (targets 14.2 & 14.5)
 - Technologies to enforce marine protected areas and capacity development for the technologies.
 - Different types of area based management tools that are available to support the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.
 - Ecosystem based management for coastal and marine activities.
 - Enhancing regional coordination for improved governance and sustainable management of living marine resources.

- Theme 3: Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification; 14.3
 - The linkages between climate change and ocean acidification and deoxygenation.
 - Marine and coastal areas of resilience to climate change.

- Evaluation of the implication of ocean acidification for ecosystem services that SIDS depend on.
- Theme 4: Making fisheries sustainable; 14.4 & 14.6
 - Updating fisheries management to ensure the adoption of science-based catch limits.
- Theme 5: Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets; 14.7 & 14.b
 - Designing fisheries subsidies to ensure access to marine resource and markets for small-scale artisanal fishers, while not contributing to overcapacity and overfishing.
 - Benefits of increased tourism and trade for sustainable development.
- Theme 6: Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology; 14.a
 - The transfer of not just hard technology but also of all of its associated aspects, including processes and methodologies required to produce and use knowledge to improve the study and understanding of the nature and resources of the oceans.
 - Address the specific capacity constraints that SIDS face in the context of capacity building and the technology transfer with a tailored approach that can address those constraints.
 - Exchange of information and knowledge for scientific cooperation in this field.
 - Increased access to and participation in events by developing countries in the relevant processes and dialogues.
- Theme 7: Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea
 - Capacity Building and Transfer of Technology for the implementation of the international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction
 - Cultural heritage, including underwater cultural heritage in view of the UNCLOS provisions relating to archaeological and historical objects
 - Recognizing the natural relationship that SIDS have with the ocean, the strategic importance of the ocean for SIDS, and the value of oceans as a development resource for SIDS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input. We look forward to what we believe will be a robust and meaningful discussion as well as a successful Conference in general.