



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
United Nations Member States

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Friday, 24 March 2017

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 27 February, 2017 with reference to the concept papers on each of the themes for the partnership dialogues.

Pursuant to your invitation for Member States and other stakeholders to submit inputs into the concept papers, the Group of Pacific Small Island Developing States have developed a submission (att.) detailing status and trends, as well as challenges and opportunities and existing partnerships which the concept papers for each partnership dialogue might take into account.

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

Sincerely,

Marlene Moses
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Chair, Pacific Small Island Developing States

H.E. Mr. Wu Hongbo
Under-Secretary-General
Secretary-General for the UN Conference to Support
The Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14
New York

**Inputs of the Pacific Small Island Developing States
to the Concept Papers for Each of the Themes for the Partnerships Dialogues
at the United Nations Oceans Conference**

The PSIDS consider a useful role for each of the concept papers for the Partnership Dialogues to provide a roadmap clarifying the means through which follow up and review of the partnerships announced at the United Nations Oceans Conference might take place. Each concept note could also address the current status of the global indicator framework developed by the United Nations Statistical Commission relevant to the respective themes, and global level progress against these indicators.

Individual concept papers should also address the following issues under the components of “status and trends,” as well as, where appropriate, the components of “challenges and opportunities:”

Partnership Dialogue 1 – Addressing marine pollution

- Damage caused by toxic materials and explosive ordinances from war relics and other undersea wreckage.
- Implications of radioactive contamination of the ocean environment.
- Impacts of, and work to address, lost and abandoned “ghost” fishing gear.

Partnership Dialogue 2 - Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems

- The role and importance of traditional knowledge in the management of marine ecosystems.

Partnership Dialogue 3 – Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification

- Other impacts on our ocean that are a consequence of greenhouse gas emissions.

Partnership Dialogue 4 – Making fisheries sustainable

- The importance of integrated fisheries management, including science-based management techniques.
- The current status of harmful fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity.

Partnership Dialogue 5 – Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

- Current barriers to access of small scale and artisanal fisheries to marine resources and markets.

- The challenges presented by the disproportionate burden of conservation falling on Small Island Developing States in realizing economic benefits from their marine resources.
- Under “c) existing partnerships:” The Parties to the Nauru Agreement as a model partnership for increasing economic benefits to SIDS

Partnership Dialogue 6 – Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology

- Building capacity, especially of SIDS, to conduct scientific research and to gather and analyze data.
- The improvement of scientific baselines, especially in light of the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems and environments.

Partnership Dialogue 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

- The possible role of a new implementing agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.