



CONCEPT PAPER PRESENTED TO THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE UN OCEAN CONFERENCE JUNE 2017

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/303, we respectfully submit the following documents as Concept Papers which have relevance to Themes 2 and 6 of the Partnership Dialogues.

We hope that you will consider this information as you prepare for the Partnership Dialogues.

A partnership was created among Italy, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance (OSA) when we convened a conference in Rome, March 2016 in which

25 marine experts from around the world and diplomats from 33 member states, including dozens from small island developing nations, met to discuss SDG 14, Target 5.

These scientists produced a Consensus Statement on Marine Protected Areas, the purpose of which is to provide scientific and experience-based guidance on how to achieve the target of establishing

10% of the oceans as a Marine Protected Areas by 2020. Specifically, the scientists, who shared information and deliberated over 3 days, created a document that brought together theoretical, research-based and practical experience. The Scientists' Consensus Statement outlines points of agreement in each of these topic areas by the experts who participated in the conference: Characteristics; Governance; Sustainable Financing. Policymakers who attended the Rome Conference created the Rome Call to Action, a companion document that lays out diplomatic guidelines for achieving SDG 14, Target 5.

Furthermore, the partnership of Italy, UNEP and OSA continues as we work together to create and test a set of tools that will assist countries in the identification, design, finance and governance of Marine Protected Areas. This is something that diplomats attending the Rome Conference requested and concluded is the next step in helping them achieve SDG 14, Target 5.

There is another partnership of member states, UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations which convenes as the 10x20 Steering Committee to promote the successful implementation and achievement of SDG 14, Target 5. It takes its name from the specifics of target 5 - to conserve 10% of the ocean by 2020 - which are the only specific and measurable goals in all of SDG 14. Italy chairs the 10x20 Steering Committee; the Bahamas, Kenya, Palau, Poland and OSA are vice-chairs. Member states support the forum as an informal way of catalyzing leadership, learning best practices and sharing information on Marine Protected Areas. This Steering Committee represents an important step in mobilizing action towards achieving one of the SDG targets -- perhaps the first effort by member states to do so.

Target 5 calls for utilizing the "best available science" in conserving marine and coastal areas, but it contains no written guidance. We urge the conveners of the Ocean Conference to use the Scientists' Consensus Statement to inform further practical solutions and actions to achieve SDG 14, Target 5.

ATTACHMENTS:

Scientists' Consensus Statement

Rome Call to Action

Participating Diplomats & Scientists

Respectfully Submitted,



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