



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6 April 2017

Excellency,

In preparation for 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 be held from 5 – 9 June 2017 in New York, I have the honour to circulate the *Guidance Note for the Partnership Dialogues* to be held during the Conference.

The list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the Conference, the "General debate", will open for inscription as of Monday, 10 April 2017. Delegations are invited to consult the United Nations Journal for further details.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all Member States and other stakeholders to register initiatives that aim to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. The registry for Voluntary Commitments for The Ocean Conference is now available online:
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments>.

The registry of the Voluntary Commitments will be central to our work on implementing SDG14 in the years ahead.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Partnership dialogues, 5-9 June 2017, Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York

GUIDANCE NOTE FOR THE PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUES

General

- The seven partnership dialogues will be an official part of The Ocean Conference. They will be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature and will focus on recommendations to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, including through strengthened cooperation, building on existing successful partnerships and stimulating innovative and concrete new ones.
- The partnership dialogues are open to all participants accredited to the Conference (States, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, associate members of regional commissions, the United Nations system and representatives of major groups and other relevant actors) and will have designated seating.

Themes and schedule

Monday, 5 June	
03:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Addressing marine pollution
Tuesday, 6 June	
10:00 AM - 01:00 PM	Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems
03:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification
Wednesday, 7 June	
10:00 AM - 01:00 PM	Making fisheries sustainable
03:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Increasing economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
Thursday, 8 June	
03:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology
Friday, 9 June	
10:00 AM - 01:00 PM	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

Format

- The partnership dialogues will be presided over by two co-chairs at the ministerial level and above - one from a developing country and one from a developed country - and will be facilitated by a moderator.
- The partnership dialogues will begin with a **panel discussion**, followed by an **interactive debate** among participants.

- Interventions in the **interactive debate** will be made from the floor, and should be succinct, concise and limited to three minutes. Participants are encouraged to focus on concrete solutions to address challenges and gaps in the implementation of Goal 14 targets by presenting voluntary commitments, partnerships, as well as on policy recommendations to support the implementation of SDG 14, for example, by means of addressing the guiding questions set out in the partnership dialogue concept papers (available on the Conference [website](#)).
- The order of speakers for each partnership dialogue will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, bearing in mind equitable geographical distribution while allowing for some flexibility with priority given to States according to the level of representation, followed by intergovernmental organizations and other entities, associate members of regional commissions, United Nations system, major groups and other relevant actors.
- It is envisaged that up to 25 States and 15 other participants will be accommodated to speak in the interactive debate of each partnership dialogue.

Registration of interest to speak in the interactive debate

- Registration of interest to speak in the interactive debate of the partnership dialogues is required.
- Representatives of States and associate members of regional commissions are invited to indicate to the Secretariat (Ms. Mary Muturi, muturi@un.org) two partnership dialogues in which to have a speaking slot, including order of preference, name, title and level of participation, and encouraged to pre-register their voluntary commitments in the Ocean Conference Registry of Voluntary Commitments (Registry). **Deadline 19 May 2017.**
- Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities and the United Nations system are invited to indicate to the Secretariat (Ms. Federica Pietracci, pietracci@un.org) two partnership dialogues in which to have a speaking slot, including order of preference, name, title and level of participation. Priority will be given to those who will present voluntary commitments that have been registered in the Registry. **Deadline 19 May 2017.**
- Representatives of major groups and other relevant actors accredited to the Conference should indicate their interest to have a speaking slot of two partnership dialogues, including order of preference, name, title and level of participation through the following link: <https://oceanconference.un.org/stakeholderengagement>. Priority will be given to those who will present voluntary commitments that have been registered in the Registry. **Deadline 24 April 2017.**
- The list of participants envisaged to speak in each partnership dialogue will be made available prior to the Conference.

Outcome

- The co-chairs' of the partnership dialogues will prepare summaries, which will be presented at the closing plenary meeting and included in the final report of the Conference.
- A list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14, announced at the Conference, including in the partnership dialogues, and registered in the Registry, will be included in the report of the Conference.

The Ocean Conference Registry of Voluntary Commitments

- When presenting a pre-registered voluntary commitment during an intervention, the speaker should convey the "reference number" (for example: #OceanAction060517) to the Secretariat ahead of time. The related page of the Registry will then be projected on the screen above the podium during the intervention.
- The Registry, including the registration form, is available at: oceanconference.un.org/commitments

More information on the partnership dialogues is available on the Conference website at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/>