



THE
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Voluntary commitments on ocean action picking up pace in advance of June Conference

80 commitments received to date

New York, 25 April—A growing number of countries, businesses and civil society groups are stepping forward with new commitments to improve the health of the world’s oceans in advance of The Ocean Conference that will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5-9 June.

“For too long, we have taken the Ocean for granted, without understanding the vital role it plays in our lives,” said the President of the UN General Assembly, Peter Thomson. “The voluntary commitments being made through the website of The Ocean Conference, from countries large and small, from agencies and civil society, register the good action being taken to restore and preserve the Ocean’s health.”

“We have seen a surge in new commitments to address the very real concerns that our oceans are facing,” said Wu Hongbo, Secretary-General of The Ocean Conference and Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. “We hope the pace will pick up even further,” he added.

A total of 80 voluntary commitments that will support the implementation of SDG14 have been made at the Voluntary Commitments registry of the Ocean Conference at

<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>

Commitment types

Among commitments to-date are projects to protect coral reefs and coastal zones in Grenada and Bali; a commitment to increase ocean conservation philanthropy, and Belgium’s commitment to prepare a national action plan to combat marine litter that will contain several cleaning activities such as the removal of fishing nets from ship wrecks and beach clean ups.

The leading nation in the number of voluntary commitments currently is Indonesia, with six, followed by Grenada, with five.

The leading entity type for submission of voluntary commitments is non-governmental organizations, with 26, followed by governments, with 15, and intergovernmental organizations and partnerships, each with 7.

The majority of voluntary commitments are global in nature—there are 45 so far, while the ocean basins with the most voluntary commitments are the South Pacific (21), the North Atlantic (20), and the North Pacific (17). Only two commitments (each) have been made that impact the Arctic and Southern Oceans. Of

the 10 SDG14 targets, support for the sustainable management of marine ecosystems have garnered the most commitments, with 42, followed by marine pollution reduction with 36, and scientific knowledge, research capacity and technology transfer, with 34.

Stakeholders at all levels, from local civil society groups to UN member states to the largest private companies, are invited to submit their SDG14 voluntary commitments to the registry towards their official inclusion in the report of the Ocean Conference.

About the Conference

The Ocean Conference, to be held at UN Headquarters in NY from 5-9 June, aims to address and reverse the deterioration of the health of the ocean through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 14 calls for the conservation and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

For more information on The Ocean Conference, please visit: <https://oceanconference.un.org/>

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