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# The Ocean Conference Newsletter

## - from Co-Presidents Sweden & Fiji



Co-Presidents  
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### Voluntary Commitments

Member States, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, businesses, philanthropies, civil society organizations, the scientific community and United Nations entities continue their mobilization to accelerate efforts to #SaveOurOcean.

With over 160 commitments registered mid-May, the Voluntary Commitments Registry ([oceanconference.un.org/commitments](http://oceanconference.un.org/commitments)) contains inspiring initiatives from around the world aiming to address the critical condition of our oceans, seas and marine resources. The online registry provides an overview of global efforts to advance the implementation of Goal 14. Commitments registered by the global community have covered all of the seven targets of the Goal.

The online registration of voluntary commitments is straightforward and Member States and other stakeholders are strongly encouraged to register commitments ahead of the Conference. The registry will remain open after the Conference.

### Call for Action

The next round of Call for Action consultations, which are organized by co-facilitators Portugal and Singapore, will take place on 23, 23, and 25 May. After two rounds of negotiations, in March and April, it is paramount that Member States gather around a document that can be adopted by consensus during the June Conference week. Co-facilitators have also engaged closely with other stakeholders during each consultation round.

### Partnership Dialogues

The seven partnership dialogues of the Conference will be interactive and action-oriented. The panels are composed of expert panelists and moderators, and chaired by 14 co-chairs from Indonesia, Norway, Palau, Italy, Mozambique, Monaco, Senegal, Canada, Grenada, Estonia, Peru, Iceland, Kenya and Australia.

Speakers who take the floor are encouraged to discuss their voluntary commitments and initiatives to advance Goal 14. Concept papers providing the foundation for each dialogue are available on the Conference [website](#).



## “Anyone Who Cares Should Get Involved”

- Interview with the President of the General Assembly Peter Thomson

Q: Why is The Ocean Conference so important?

A: It represents humanity’s best opportunity to remedy the woes we have placed upon the ocean. Those woes are extensive: from marine pollution to overfishing and destructive fishing practices; from harmful fisheries subsidies to lack of high seas governance; from rising levels of ocean acidity to rising ocean temperatures. If the cycle of decline that accumulated human activity has brought upon the ocean is not reversed, the implications for us all cannot be good.

Q: Who can get involved?

A: Anyone who cares about the health of the ocean can and should get involved. The Conference website explains how interested parties can register voluntary commitments on how they are helping to conserve and sustainably manage the resources of the ocean.

Q: What can you do?

A: Once you’ve registered your commitments on the online register, it’s time to get into action. Whether you are a group of friends and family, co-workers, a business, an agency or a nation, your commitment to action matters. If you want a challenge, here’s a suggested starter: only eat fish that are from a sustainable fishery.



## Conference Basics

Key objective: Support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Time: 5-9 June 2017 (World Environment Day 5 June, World Oceans Day 8 June).

Location: United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Attendance: High-level attendance is encouraged throughout the entire week.

Format: 8 plenary sessions and 7 partnership dialogues. 150 side events. 29 exhibitions.

Outcomes: Call for Action, summaries of the Partnership Dialogues, and a list of voluntary commitments.

Official Conference website: [oceanconference.un.org](http://oceanconference.un.org)

UNDP’s Ocean Action Hub: [oceanactionhub.org](http://oceanactionhub.org)

## UNDP: Over 20 national ocean consultations

UNDP and the Government of Sweden are supporting over twenty countries to host Ocean National Consultations including: Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Togo.

The consultations aim to help countries and stakeholder groups prepare voluntary commitments, and identify, register and boost the implementation of existing ocean-related commitments. For more information, consult the Ocean Action Hub at:

[www.oceanactionhub.org/national-consultations](http://www.oceanactionhub.org/national-consultations)

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