



**PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES  
United Nations Member States**

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations  
801 Second Avenue, Third Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Phone: +1 (212) 937 - 0074  
Fax: +1 (212) 937 - 0079  
E-mail: psids.ny@gmail.com

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Marlene Moses  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Nauru  
Chair, Pacific Small Island Developing States  
At the Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference to Support  
Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 : Themes for the partnership  
dialogues**

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017, New York**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Co-facilitators,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States with representation at the United Nations. At the outset, for those of us that are members, we associate with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and with the statement delivered by Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

Co-facilitators,

2. As this is our first intervention in the preparatory process for this UN Conference, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as co-facilitators. We are confident in your leadership, and in that of the Conference Co-Presidents, Sweden and Fiji, in ensuring a successful outcome.
3. Likewise, we would like to thank and welcome the Secretary-General for the preparation of the Background-Note for the UN Oceans Conference, which is an excellent basis for our discussions today.

Co-facilitators,

4. With respect to the possible themes for the partnership dialogue, we see the proposal set forward in the Secretary-General's background note as capturing the key priorities for discussion at this conference.
5. Indeed, for PSIDS, it is critical that, at minimum, the partnership dialogues give appropriate space to address the topics of:

- Marine pollution;
  - Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems;
  - Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, as well as other impacts on our ocean that are a consequence of greenhouse gas emissions;
  - Making fisheries sustainable;
  - Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.
6. We are pleased to see most of these priorities captured in the proposed thematic dialogues.

Co-facilitators,

7. Giving mounting threats to the health, productivity and resilience of our Ocean as highlighted by the December 2015 "First World Ocean Assessment", it is critical that these dialogues drive concrete outcomes through the creation of new partnerships to support and attain SDG 14. For PSIDS, our commitment to SDG 14 remains steadfast and the partnership dialogues must result in practical and sustained actions that help restore a healthy marine environment, ensure healthy fish stocks, and help us realize the benefits of the sustainable use of marine resources. PSIDS are fully committed to ensuring the success of the partnership dialogues as strong building blocks that would deliver a transformative UN Oceans Conference outcome that catalyzes SDG14's successful implementation.

I thank you, Co-facilitators.