

**Intervenção Plenário**

(5 minutos)

**Theme:** Free

**Date:** 6 Junho

**Time:** 15h00-18h00 (aprox. às 16h00 – posição 15 na lista)

**Local:** *UN GA Hall*

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Distinguished Co presidents of the UN Ocean Conference  
Mrs Isabella Lovin, Minister for International Development  
Cooperation and Climate of Sweden

Mr Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji

Your excellences

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

- We all know climate change is a harsh reality and to accomplish the Paris Agreement ~~we~~ must <sup>be</sup> ~~make it~~ a global priority.

- Portugal greets the United Nations, once more, for the organization of this Conference, entirely dedicated to Sustainable Development Goal 14, reinforcing its relevant role in boosting its implementation.
- To this end, the submission of voluntary commitments by the Member States of the United Nations is especially important.
- Therefore, Portugal has made a special effort to establish commitments, that will decisively contribute to the implementation of Goal 14, in maritime areas under Portuguese jurisdiction and beyond, through meaningful partnerships with other States.
- Portugal submitted 10 commitments covering actions against marine litter, enhancement of maritime spatial planning (including a clear target of 14% of marine protected areas), or additional funding for conservation actions.
- Why do we all commit? Because, as we all know, the Ocean is the primary regulator of the global climate and

the way we decide to address this challenge will affect our lives in the decades to come.

- Oceans and coastal areas are extremely vulnerable to the effects of human actions, such as environmental degradation, overfishing and pollution, and that is why there is a need for sustainability in all ocean-related activities, meaning, a real blue economy assumed as a powerful tool in the implementation of Goal 14.
- The success of blue economy demands a circular economy, which contributes to, and depends on the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and marine resources, and it is of the most significant aims of the ~~of the~~ United Nations Agenda 2030.
- Sustainable ocean economy is not only important to create jobs and generate wealth, but also to address some of the greatest challenges our planet faces today. And this is why we must make the most of the potential blue economy offers, while safeguarding healthy oceans.

- Healthy oceans have a direct impact on Human health! Oceans are not only one of the main food providers, but also, and through biotechnology, one of the sources for the development of new products that can truly protect and improve Human health.
- It is for this reason that, Portugal will promote the third edition of the “Oceans Meeting”, addressing the topic of “Oceans and Human Health”, and I invite all of you to come to Lisbon, in September.
- We must focus on the challenges and opportunities of this subject and explore the interlinks between marine resources, research and development and its potential on Human health, namely on food production and quality, biotechnology, biomedicine, pharmaceutical, cosmetics and fine chemical industries.
- We truly believe in International cooperation. We are stronger together, and this is why we are gather here, sharing views, putting forward our different commitments for the benefit of our generation and the others to come.

Finally, and because the need to support the implementation of Goal 14 does not end here; because the importance of the health of our ocean is vital today as it <sup>will be</sup> ~~is~~ vital tomorrow; because until 2030 and beyond we need to make everything in our reach to address the serious challenges facing our ocean, I want to formally announce that Portugal offers to host a follow-up UN Ocean Conference in 2020 on the same basis and with the same objectives as laid out in Resolution 70/303 for this Conference. We make this offer as a contribution to, and in line with, the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda under the stewardship and oversight of the high level political forum.

- Finally, and to reinforce Portugal's commitment regarding Ocean Affairs, we express our interest and availability to host the next UN Ocean Conference, in Portugal, in June 2020.

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- I thank you for your kind attention!

- I would like to end by recalling the wise words of the great New Yorker philosopher, William James: "We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface but connected in the deep."