

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

xx January 2020

Excellency,

As our planet's "blue lungs," the oceans and seas underpin human life and the health of our ecosystems. The health of marine ecosystems is critical to poverty eradication, food security, commerce and a prosperous economy. Oceans and seas are also deeply interconnected with the climate system, serving as the primary regulator of the global surface temperature and an important sink for greenhouse gases.

In order to accelerate ambitious action on ocean sustainability and conservation, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 73/292, decided to convene the 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference. The overarching theme of the Conference will be "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions". The Conference will be co-hosted by the Governments of the Portuguese Republic and the Republic of Kenya and will take place from 2 to 6 June 2020 in Lisbon.

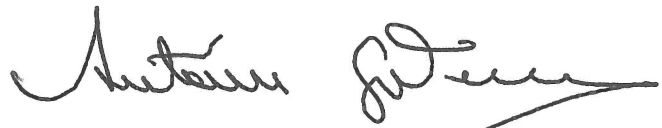
This Conference will build on the success of the High-level United Nations Ocean Conference held in 2017, which galvanized action at all levels through solution-oriented partnerships and voluntary commitments, aimed at reversing the decline in the health of the oceans, seas and marine resources for people, planet and prosperity. It will take place during a vital year for climate change and biodiversity, which must deliver strong new targets and raise ambition levels for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The 2020 Ocean Conference will also be an opportunity for Member States to generate and amplify concrete solutions and actions that will make a significant contribution to the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.

His/Her Excellency  
Mr./Ms. XX  
[Title]  
[City]

I have the honour to invite participation from your country at the 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference, at the highest possible level, and look forward to receiving confirmation at your earliest convenience. I also encourage the participation of all Member States in the preparatory meeting to be convened by the President of the General Assembly, on 4 and 5 February 2020, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

António Guterres