

**HIGH-LEVEL SIDE-EVENT
UN BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT**

**WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2020
08:00 - 09:30 AM EST**

BIODIVERSITY: THE OCEAN'S ROLE



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Office of the
Special Envoy for
the Ocean



MODERATOR:
PETER THOMSON
UNSG'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE OCEAN

OPENING
08:00-08:30

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES 🎬

H.E. DANNY FAURE 🎬
PRESIDENT OF SEYCHELLES

LIU ZHENMIN 🎬
UN UNDER-SECRETARY-
GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC &
SOCIAL AFFAIRS

CLOSING
09:20-09:30

H.E. ISABELLA LÖVIN 🎬
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE & DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER OF SWEDEN

PANEL DISCUSSION
08:30-09:20

ELIZABETH MREMA
CBD SECRETARIAT

ANDREW FORREST
MINDEROO FOUNDATION

DONA BERTARELLI
UNCTAD SPECIAL ADVISER

ENRIC SALA
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

ATSUSHI SUNAMI
SASAKAWA PEACE
FOUNDATION



United Nations

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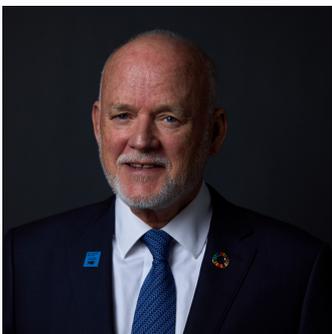


BIODIVERSITY: THE OCEAN'S ROLE

Marine life, the world's climate, our economy and social well-being depend on the existence of a healthy ocean. Although some improvements have been observed, recent assessments show that the Ocean continues to be exploited in an unsustainable manner. Climate change and competition for natural resources are adding further pressure on the marine environment. The decline of biodiversity, the Ocean's degrading health, and the ongoing climate crisis demand special attention and a nexus approach.

On the margins of the 2020 Biodiversity Summit, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson, in coordination with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), is organizing a High-Level Side-Event on "Biodiversity - the Ocean's Role". The event is being held for the purpose of discussing the Ocean's integral role on this planet as the largest reservoir of biodiversity and life.

The webinar will feature a number of High-Level speakers, who will participate by video message or in the event's livestream.



MODERATOR
PETER THOMSON
UNSG'S SPECIAL
ENVOY FOR THE
OCEAN

On 12 September 2017, H.E. Peter Thomson of Fiji was appointed the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean. From 13 September 2016 to 11 September 2017, he served as President of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Thomson leads UN's advocacy and public outreach efforts inside and outside of the UN system, ensuring that the many positive outcomes of the 2017 Ocean Conference, including the over 1500 voluntary commitments, are analyzed and implemented. Mr. Thomson brings distinguished experience in diplomatic services, as Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN and President of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly.



OPENING REMARKS
H.R.H. THE PRINCE
OF WALES

The Prince of Wales, eldest son of The Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was born on 14th November 1948. Through the years, His Royal Highness developed a wide range of interests which are today reflected in The Prince of Wales's Charities, a group of not-for-profit organisations of which The Prince of Wales is Patron or President. These interests are also reflected in the list of more than 400 organisations of which His Royal Highness is Patron or President. The Prince's interest in fields such as the built environment, global sustainability, youth opportunity, education and faith have been elaborated over many years in a large number of speeches and articles.



OPENING REMARKS
H.E. DANNY FAURE
PRESIDENT OF
SEYCHELLES

President of the Republic of Seychelles, Danny Antoine Rollen Faure, was born to Seychellois parents in Kilembe, Uganda. His career has spanned across parliament and public service, and he has held ministerial portfolios ranging from education and youth to ICT and public administration. He was the Minister for Finance, Trade and Industries for 6 years, where he oversaw the implementation of the first generation of reforms under the IMF macroeconomic reform programme which started in October 2008. He continues to direct the second generation of reforms as part of the on-going economic programme in Seychelles. He also served as Vice-President of Seychelles for 6 years, holding portfolios for trade and investment. President Faure is a strong proponent of people-centered sustainable development and climate action. In 2018, he was appointed as the official 'Champion of the Blue Economy in Africa' by the African Union. He is also the 2019 recipient of the National Geographic Planetary Leadership Award for his contributions toward ocean protection.



OPENING REMARKS

LIU ZHENMIN

UN UNDER-
SECRETARY-
GENERAL FOR
ECONOMIC &
SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Liu Zhenmin was appointed as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 26 July 2017. In his position, Mr. Liu guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the Highlevel Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC. Mr. Liu also convenes the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development. In addition, the Secretary General has designated Mr. Liu to lead preparations for a number of forthcoming development-focused global conferences, including the Ocean Conference and the Second Global Sustainable Transport Conference.



PANELIST

ELIZABETH MREMA
SECRETARY-
GENERAL OF THE
CBD SECRETARIAT

Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, is the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ms. Mrema has worked with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) for over two decades and was the Director of the Law Division at UNEP which is also responsible for international environmental governance as well as multilateral environmental agreements. Prior to joining the Law Division in June 2014, she was Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, in charge of coordination, operations and programme delivery from 2012 and for one year also served as Acting Director to the same Division. In 2018, she was also the Acting Director of the Corporate Services Division. Prior to these duties, she also served as Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) from 2009-2012. Ms. Mrema's work at UNEP has focused on development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws including multilateral environmental agreements at national, regional and international levels, among others. Her various roles over the years, include being coordinator of capacity-building and compliance and enforcement projects related to environmental law and the multilateral environmental conventions.



PANELIST
ANDREW FORREST
MINDEROO
FOUNDATION

Dr. Forrest is Australia's most active philanthropist and among the most effective business leaders of his generation. In 2001, with his wife Nicola, Dr Forrest co-founded the Minderoo Foundation, focused on tackling systemic global issues including the decline of our oceans and modern slavery. The Forrest's donations to date exceed AU\$2 billion. In 2017, Dr Forrest was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the mining sector, philanthropy, the development of employment and business opportunities, and sustainable foreign investment. Dr Forrest has a PHD in Marine Ecology from the University of Western Australia and is an Adjunct Professor of the Central South University in China. He is Global Patron of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, an IUCN Patron of Nature, and has served as a Councillor of the Global Citizen Commission. In 2018, Dr Forrest was the inaugural winner of the EY Global Entrepreneur of the Year Social Impact Award.



PANELIST
DONA BERTARELLI
UNCTAD SPECIAL
ADVISER

Dona Bertarelli is a successful philanthropist, investor, sportswoman, and ocean advocate. As the Special Adviser for the Blue Economy for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Dona Bertarelli will help promote a sustainable and regenerative blue economy, particularly in developing countries. She is co-chair of the Bertarelli Foundation, where she leads programmes to establish large-scale Marine Protected Areas, as well as a member of the World Economic Forum's Friends of Ocean Action, and a founding patron of Womanity Foundation, which works to accelerate gender equality. She believes in the power of business to do good for society and drove the family pharmaceutical business Serono's philanthropy and educational programmes. Dona Bertarelli is the founder and skipper of Spindrift racing, a professional sailing team. In 2016, she became the fastest woman to sail around the world, which inspired her to create Spindrift for Schools, an educational programme for schoolchildren.



PANELIST
ENRIC SALA
NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

Dr. Enric Sala is a former university professor who saw himself writing the obituary of ocean life, and quit academia to become a full-time conservationist as a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence. He founded and leads Pristine Seas, a project that combines exploration, research, and media to inspire country leaders to protect the last wild places in the ocean. To date, Pristine Seas has helped to create 22 of the largest marine reserves on the planet, covering an area of 5.8 million square km. 2008 World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader, 2013 Explorers Club Lowell Thomas Award, 2013 Environmental Media Association Hero Award, 2016 Russian Geographical Society Award, and 2018 Heinz Award in Public Policy. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.



PANELIST
ATSUSHI SUNAMI
SASAKAWA PEACE
FOUNDATION

Dr. Atsushi Sunami is President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) and President of the Ocean Policy Research Institute of SPF. He specializes in ocean policies, science/technology/innovation policies, strategies and international partnership. He also serves as Special Advisor, Cabinet Office, Executive Advisor to the President and Adjunct P at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), and Guest Professor at Research Organization for Nano & Life Innovation, Waseda University. He was previously Vice President at GRIPS, worked at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Nomura Research Institute, was Visiting Researcher at the University of Sussex, UK and Tsinghua University, China. He holds MIA and PhD in Political Science from Columbia University. He belongs to various international bodies and groups such as the Advisory Network of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and the Advisory Board of the Arctic.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Environment and Climate of Sweden Ms. Isabella Lövin has served as Minister for International Development as well as a Member of the European Parliament and has a background as a journalist and author, with a dedicated interest in healthy oceans and fisheries. Isabella Lövin holds an Honorary Doctorate from the Swedish Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Minister Isabella Lövin is co-chair of the Friends of Ocean Action initiative and a long-time advocate for the Oceans.

CLOSING REMARKS
H.E. ISABELLA LÖVIN
MINISTER FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE & DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER OF
SWEDEN

