

JOIN US ONLINE

TUESDAY, 30 MARCH
09:00 - 11:55 EDT

**Keeping the
Momentum for
Ocean Action**
Webinar Series

Implementing SDG 14 *with the* Communities of Ocean Action



PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 30 MARCH
09:00 - 11:55 EDT



OPENING 09:00 - 09:30

Peter Thomson
UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean

Ambassador Duarte Lopes
Portugal

Ambassador Martin Kimani
Kenya

Liu Zhenmin
UN DESA

Miguel de Serpa Soares
UN OLA



KEYNOTE 09:35 - 10:10

Marjo Vierros
Coastal Policy & Humanities Research

PROGRAMME

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PANEL 10:10 - 11:40

Vladimir Ryabinin
Scientific Knowledge COA
UNESCO-IOC

Martha Rojas Urrego
Mangroves COA
RAMSAR

Janis Searles Jones
Marine Pollution COA
Ocean Conservancy

David Cooper
Ecosystems Management COA
CBD

Manuel Barange
Sustainable Fisheries COA
FAO

Peter Swarzenski
Ocean Acidification COA
IAEA

Takehiro Nakamura
Coral Reefs COA
UNEP



Closing 11:40 - 11:55

Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström
Sweden

Ambassador Satyendra Prasad
Fiji

Implementing SDG 14 *with the* Communities of Ocean Action

OBJECTIVES OF THIS WEBINAR:

- To get an **update** on the implementation of the VCs by each COA by stock-taking of progress and identify gaps and challenges as well as to share best practice and lessons.
- To examine how the **impact** of the COVID 19 has impeded the implementation of SDG 14 and ensure that the Ocean considered as a priority amidst recovery efforts.
- Maintain the momentum on **ocean action** ahead of the upcoming UNOC that was postponed in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

MODERATOR



**Ambassador
Peter Thomson**
UNSG's Special
Envoy for the
Ocean

Peter Thomson has served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean since September 2017. In this role he leads UN advocacy and efforts for the implementation of SDG14, including the many positive outcomes of the 2017 UN Ocean Conference.

Ambassador Thomson served as President of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly, 2016-2017. Ambassador Thomson was Fiji's Permanent representative to the UN from 2010 to 2016.

The forthcoming **Ocean Conference**, co-hosted by the Governments of **Kenya and Portugal**,

will come at a critical time as the world is strengthening its efforts to mobilize, create and drive solutions to realize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in the context of an ongoing global pandemic. How we respond to COVID-19 beyond the immediate and necessary recovery of health and livelihoods will likely determine not only whether we will reach SDG 14, but also how sustainable the world of tomorrow will be.

The high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development: The 2017 Ocean Conference co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden paved the way for action oriented, science based innovative solutions aimed at reversing the decline in the health of our ocean for people, planet and prosperity.

At the 2017 conference, approximately 1,400 voluntary commitments (VC) for concrete action to advance implementation of SDG 14 were made by Member States, the UN system, and an array of stakeholders including civil society, the private sector and academia.

To date, over 1,600 VCs are registered online and the registry of voluntary commitments remain open. These commitments were one of the major outcomes of the conference and marked a global breakthrough on the path to sustainable management and conservation of our oceans, seas and marine resources.

To follow-up on the implementation of these voluntary commitments as well as to catalyse and generate new ones, the UN launched nine thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action (COA) of which are closely aligned with the targets of SDG14.

Recently, an online survey on the implementation of VCs published on the Ocean Conference Registry was carried out to get an update on the achievements and challenges as well as to receive suggestions on its implementation. The assessment of the impact of these commitments based on the survey and other available information, concluded that the VCs have collectively furthered the attainment of SDG 14.

Nevertheless, various challenges to their implementation have been reported such as, the lack of resources, funding, technical expertise, partner cooperation as well as political environment. Furthermore, the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic that broke out last year has further exacerbated challenges in the implementation of the VCs. This webinar will take a look at the status of implementation of the VCs as well as the impacts of the COVID- 19.

Learn More:



United Nations



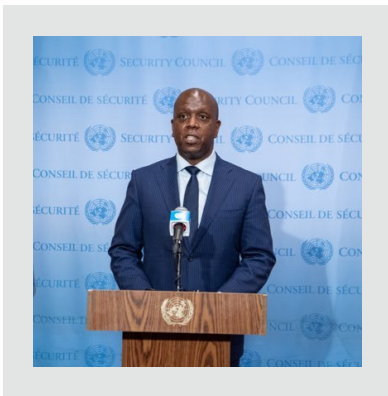
**UN Ocean Conference
Lisbon, Portugal**

<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>



Before serving as Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes was the Director-General for Foreign Policy, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, 2014 to 2017. He has served as Director-General for European Affairs, 2012 to 2014 and was Diplomatic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Portugal from 2009 to 2011.

**Ambassador
Duarte Lopes**
Permanent
Representative of
Portugal to the UN



H.E. Ambassador Martin Kimani, PhD, EBS, is Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He leads Kenya's team to the Security Council for the 2021-2022 term. He also serves as President's Special Envoy for Countering Violent Extremism, and is the immediate past Director of Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Centre.

**Ambassador
Martin Kimani**
Representative of
Kenya to the UN



Liu Zhenmin was appointed as the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in 2017. In this position, Mr. Liu guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He has been designated as the Secretary-General of the UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon in 2021, in which role USG Liu serves as the focal point within the UN Secretariat for the organisation of the conference.

Liu Zhenmin
UN Under-
Secretary-General
for Economic &
Social Affairs



Miguel de Serpa Soares
UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

Miguel de Serpa Soares was appointed Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel in 2013. He serves as the Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. USG de Serpa Soares has been designated as the Special Adviser on Ocean and legal matters to the Co-Presidents of the UN Ocean Conference.

KEYNOTE



Marjo Vierros
Coastal Policy & Humanities Research

Dr. Marjo Vierros is the director of Coastal Policy and Humanities Research, which undertakes interdisciplinary research on ocean issues. She is also a Senior Fellow with the Global Ocean Forum. Previously she coordinated the Global Marine Governance Project at the United Nations University and the work programme on marine and coastal biodiversity at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. With a background in marine science and policy, her research interests span ocean governance, traditional ecological knowledge, sustainable development and connecting the local and global levels in marine management.

PANELISTS



Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary,
UNESCO-IOC

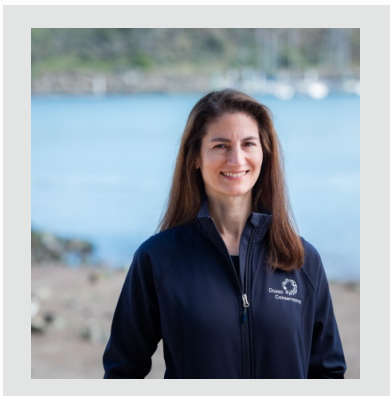
Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin is the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and Assistant Director-General of UNESCO. He is an oceanographer, marine engineer, meteorologist, and climatologist.

PANELISTS



**Martha Rojas
Urrego**
Secretary-General
RAMSAR

Martha Rojas Urrego is the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Her commitment to conservation, sustainable development and social equity are running themes throughout her career from grassroots level to the highest levels of international policy making.



Janis Searles Jones
CEO
Ocean Conservancy

Janis Searles Jones is CEO of Ocean Conservancy, an organization focused on solutions to tackle the most pressing ocean issues of our time. A renowned marine conservation and policy expert, she has deep expertise in Alaska and the Arctic in particular. Jones is an adjunct faculty member and Distinguished Environmental Law Graduate of Lewis & Clark Law School, where she earned her JD and a certificate in environmental and natural resources law.



David Cooper
Deputy Executive
Secretary
CBD

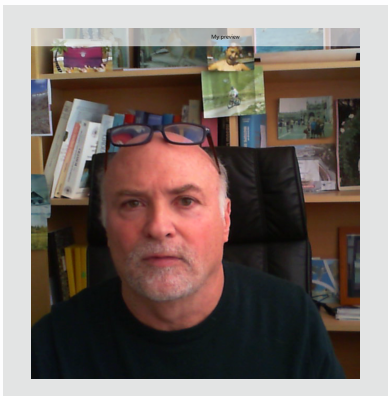
Dr. David Cooper is Deputy Executive Secretary (October 2015) at the Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), where he assists the Executive Secretary by coordinating the strategic and planning activities of the Secretariat as well as the intergovernmental processes and activities under the Convention.

PANELISTS



Manuel Barange
Division Director
FAO

Manuel Barange is a biologist. He is the director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He is an honorary professor at the University of Exeter.



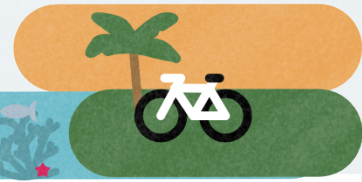
Peter Swarzenski
REL Head
IAEA

Peter Swarzenski holds a PhD in Chemical Oceanography and is Section Head of the IAEA Radioecology Laboratory (REL) in Monaco. At REL Swarzenski oversees research on diverse marine stressors, including deoxygenation, ocean acidification, contamination, harmful algal blooms, and marine plastics.



Takehiro Nakamura
Chief of Unit
UNEP

Takehiro Nakamura is currently Chief of the Marine and Coastal Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). On this position, he has been engaged in addressing and reversing degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems through the application of ecosystem approaches, integrated coastal zone management, blue carbon and other ecosystem-specific management approaches (particularly mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs). Recently he focusses on the environmental aspects of sustainable development of marine and coastal areas to achieving Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the marine and coastal ecosystems. He received a Ph.D. in Global Environmental Studies from Kyoto University.



Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN

Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström is the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations since December 2019. Ambassador Eneström is a Swedish diplomat with extensive experience from several top positions worldwide. She has served as the Representative to the Political and Security Committee at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union in Brussels, she was the Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the Swedish Ambassador to Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Ambassador Satyendra Prasad
Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN

Ambassador Satyendra Prasad is the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations since 2018. Before that, Mr. Prasad was the Chief Executive Officer of the Papua New Guinea Governance Facility. Before that, he served as Senior Governance Adviser at the World Bank between 2009 and 2016, Governance Adviser at the United Kingdom's Department for International Development from 2003 to 2009, and Commissioner of Fiji's Public Service Commission from 1998 until 2000.