

# United Nations Nations Unies

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Excellency,

Pursuant to General Assembly decision 75/578 of 9 September 2021, the 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 is now scheduled to be held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal. The theme of the 2022 Conference remains: “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions.”

You will recall that in my letter dated 20 February 2020, I invited all interested Member States to submit inputs to the concept papers on the themes of the eight interactive dialogues of the second 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, initially scheduled to take place in 2020. That letter also invited an expression of interest of Governments to serve as a co-chair at the highest possible level for any of the interactive dialogues and suggestions on distinguished experts to serve as moderators and panelists, as provided for in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 73/292. I wish to thank those Governments who have communicated their proposals on moderators and panelists and expressed interests in co-chairing the dialogues prior to the postponement of the Conference in April 2020.

The Secretariat has resumed the preparation of the concept papers on the themes of the eight interactive dialogues with a view to finalizing them by the end of April 2022, as follows:

- (1) Addressing marine pollution
- (2) Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems
- (3) Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming
- (4) Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- (5) Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for small island developing States and least developed countries
- (6) Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology

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- (7) Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- (8) Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Bearing in mind that the President of the General Assembly is requested to finalize the organizational arrangements for the Conference no later than May 2022, and taking into account the evolving landscape and new challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to invite another round of contributions from Member States to update the concept papers with the latest COVID-related data and analysis in the status and trends, challenges and opportunities, possible areas for new partnerships as well as recommendations on advancing implementation of SDG 14. A generic draft outline for the concept papers is attached for your reference.

Due to the restrictions on the length of the documents emanating from the Secretariat, we may not be in the position to reflect the full contribution of your Government in the concept papers. However, with your consent, the full text of your Government's contribution will be published on the website of the Conference at: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022>.

It would be greatly appreciated if the contribution of your Government could be sent, in English, to the Secretariat (Ms. Xin Feng, [xin.feng@un.org](mailto:xin.feng@un.org), with copy to Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, [chatterjeem@un.org](mailto:chatterjeem@un.org), and Mr. Dmitry Gonchar, [gonchar@un.org](mailto:gonchar@un.org)) by **15 February 2022**.

I would also like to renew my invitation for an expression/reconfirmation of interest, if any, of your Government's high-level official to serve as a co-chair for any of the eight interactive dialogues, and nominations of distinguished experts to serve as moderators and panelists of the dialogues. Please communicate your proposals to the Secretariat (Ms. Xin Feng, [xin.feng@un.org](mailto:xin.feng@un.org) and Ms. Eun Hee Lee [eunhee.lee@un.org](mailto:eunhee.lee@un.org) with copy to Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, [chatterjeem@un.org](mailto:chatterjeem@un.org)) no later than **15 February 2022**.

Finally, I would like to encourage all Governments to announce voluntary commitments that aim to contribute to the implementation of SDG 14 and associated targets as envisaged in paragraph 5(g) and 19 of General Assembly resolution 73/292. The voluntary commitments can be registered through the online form available on the Ocean Conference website: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/ocean-commitments>, or announced in the official meetings of the Conference.

The Secretariat stands ready to support you in this process.

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



LIU Zhenmin  
Under-Secretary-General