INTRODUCTION

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 scheduled to be held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal. As the Conference preparatory process has fully resumed, 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, 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.

Taking into account the evolving landscape and new challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Liu Zhenmin, sent a letter to invite another round of contributions from Member States to update the concept papers with the latest COVID related data and analysis on the status and trends, challenges and opportunities, possible areas for new partnerships as well as recommendations for advancing the implementation of SDG 14. The themes are 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
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.
Paragraph 5 (d) of resolution 73/292 requests that the conference shall: “Involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies, nongovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14”.

Among the entities mentioned in paragraph 5 (d), Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and other interested international bodies are invited to send their inputs to the preparation of the concept papers to the Secretariat (Ms. Xin Feng, xin.feng@un.org, Ms. Eun Hee Lee, eunhee.lee@un.org, copied to Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, chatterjeem@un.org, and Mr. Dmitry Gonchar, gonchar@un.org by 15 February 2022.

In addition, a global online stakeholder consultation has been set up to invite all other stakeholders: nongovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors, to provide inputs to the concept papers on each of the themes of the interactive dialogues by 21 February 2022. The request for inputs from stakeholders is now available at the following website: https://sdgs.un.org/basic-page/2022-un-ocean-conference-global-online-stakeholder-consultation-inputs-concept-papers.

SUGGESTED TEMPLATE FOR CONCEPT PAPERS

As requested in resolution 73/292, paragraph 23, the Secretary-General of the Conference will prepare concept papers for each of the themes of the eight interactive dialogues. All relevant stakeholders may provide inputs to the following components:

(Title of interactive dialogue)

I. Introduction (500 words)
   - Setting the scene and defining the issues

II. Status and trends (1500 words)

III. Challenges and opportunities (2800 words)
   - Gaps identified in the area relevant to the topic of this IPWG
   - Measures/interventions should be promoted to fill existing gaps and to assist Member States in scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation in relation to the topic of this theme
   - Concrete examples where ocean action is scaled up based on science and innovation

IV. Existing partnerships (1200 words)
   - Focus could be on scientific and technological innovation-based partnerships

V. Possible areas for new partnerships (1200 words)

VI. Conclusions and recommendations (1000 words)

VII. Key questions for the dialogue at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference (300 words)

Due to the restriction on the length of the documents, the Secretariat may not be in the position to reflect the full contributions in the concept papers. However, all contributions will be made available online at https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022.