

United Nations Nations Unies

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Dear Colleagues,

I refer to my letter of 29 January 2020 (attached), in which I invited participation from entities in the United Nations system at the highest possible level, at 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 June 2020.

Pursuant to General Assembly decision 75/578 of 9 September 2021, the United Nations Ocean Conference is now scheduled to be held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in Lisbon and will be co-hosted by the Governments of Portugal and Kenya. 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.” Conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources must be an imperative of the Decade of Action towards achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The ocean and its ecosystems sit at the nexus of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and increasing pollution and waste. The ocean is our primary carbon and heat sink, absorbing more than 90 per cent of excess heat from climate change, and home to 80 per cent of all life on Earth. The marine and coastal ecosystems contribute to the social and economic wellbeing of people through their significant role in poverty eradication, food security, job creation, shipping and trade, climate resilience, and sustainable “blue economy”.

Cumulative impacts of human activities, such as overfishing, marine pollution, and unsustainable aquaculture, have led to rapid ocean warming and acidification, coral reef destruction, depletion of fish stocks and a range of other detrimental effects jeopardizing marine life and biodiversity. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a further toll on the implementation of SDG14, yet the ocean holds solutions for rebuilding a more resilient, sustainable and equitable post-COVID world. Furthermore, merely 20 per cent of the ocean floor has been mapped, and more needs to be done, including through science and data, to learn and protect this precious biosphere.

EC-ESA Plus Principals

Building on the success of the first High-level United Nations Ocean Conference held in 2017 and taking advantage of the momentum created by recent major global conferences, the 2022 Ocean Conference will provide an opportunity to galvanize action through solution-oriented partnerships, financial pledges, and voluntary commitments aimed at reversing the decline in the health and productivity of the ocean. It will also serve to mobilize the United Nations system in support of successful and fruitful realization of the vision for strengthening protection of global commons, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, entitled “*Our Common Agenda*.”

I am pleased to renew the invitation for participation from entities within the United Nations system at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference, at the highest possible level, and look forward to receiving confirmation at your earliest convenience. In planning for the Conference, I will also open the call for proposals for side events shortly. Taking the shape of briefings, workshops, panel discussions, and more, these events will reinforce the anticipated interactions for propelling ocean action forward. Information regarding the Conference and its accreditation and application process will soon be available at the Conference website <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022>.

Confirmation of your participation at the Conference should be sent to the Secretariat (Ms. Xin Feng at xin.feng@un.org and Ms. Eun Hee Lee at eunhee.lee@un.org with copy to Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee at chatterjeem@un.org).

Yours sincerely,



LIU Zhenmin
Under-Secretary-General