Welcoming remarks

Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG, UNDESA, welcomed all participants to the 4th Stakeholders Online Briefing on the 2022 UN Ocean Conference and invited Ambassador Peter Thomson and the two co-hosts of the upcoming UN Ocean Conference, the governments of Kenya and Portugal, to deliver opening remarks.

Ambassador Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, stressed the importance of the Conference for coordinated engagements in implementing SDG 14. Ambassador Thomson highlighted the expectation that the Conference will be a global gamechanger for launching science-based solutions for the Ocean. Ambassador Thomson also encouraged stakeholders to promptly submit applications for side events and voluntary commitments.

Ms. Lily Mwanjila, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations, called attention to the importance of the Conference to establish new commitments and partnerships to implement SDG 14 and its interlinkages with the other Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Sergio Carvalho, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations emphasized the need to scale up ocean-related efforts and stressed the significance of coordinated actions. Furthermore, Mr. Carvalho highlighted the opportunities for stakeholders to make their mark at the Conference, including through voluntary commitments and organizing side events.

The 2022 UN Ocean Conference: An introduction

Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG/UN DESA, showcased the theme and program for the Conference. Ms. Tahtinen informed that a declaration, a Conference summary and voluntary commitments are the main expected outcomes. She further highlighted how the Conference mobilizes a vast group of stakeholders and pointed out that there would be opportunities for stakeholders to make in-person interventions during the Plenary and Interactive Dialogue sessions. A dedicated process will be established soon.

Voluntary Ocean Commitments

Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, Chief, Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch (NRIB), DSDG, DESA, presented voluntary commitments as a key outcome for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, following the successful experience of the 2017 UN Ocean Conference. She called upon all stakeholders to register new commitments in the online portal. Ms. Chatterjee stressed the need for improved reporting across all stakeholders and highlighted the value of an up-to-date portal for Ocean action.
The 2022 UN Ocean Conference – Registration and other relevant information

Ms. Naiara Costa, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UNDESA/DSDG/OPB, thanked participants for their engagement in submitting questions during the Briefing, which will also be reflected in the updated FAQ. Ms. Costa also shared information about the registration process and encouraged participants to start the registration early. It was emphasized that an organization must be duly accredited to register, that registration is per individual, and that all participants must be pre-registered to attend the Conference in-person. Ms. Costa referred to the website for more information including lists of eligible organizations who can register.

Kathryn Good, UN-NGLS, shared information about how to register in the online portal and stressed the importance of using the correct portal when registering. More details on registration can be found here.

Closing remarks

Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG, UNDESA, delivered closing remarks and thanked all participants for their support and engagement. Ms. Tahtinen referred stakeholders to the website for updates and information and called upon stakeholders to bring along voluntary commitments to the Conference.