

United Nations  Nations Unies

OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE UN CONFERENCE
TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)
ROOM S-2922, UN SECRETARIAT BUILDING, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017
TEL.: 1 (212) 963.5958 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.1010

REFERENCE: DESA-17/00373

27 February 2017

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to refer to the letter of H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly, dated 24 February 2017, in which he forwarded the letter from the co-facilitators of the preparatory process of the Ocean Conference, H.E. Mr. Alvaro Mendonça e Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal, and H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore, to the United Nations, related to the preparatory meeting of the Conference, convened on 15 and 16 February 2017. The letter from the co-facilitators includes an annex containing the final list of themes for the partnership dialogues of the Conference.

In this regard, I would like to invite Member States and other stakeholders referred to in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 70/303, to submit inputs to the concept papers on each of the themes of the partnership dialogues, taking into account the relevant oceans-related processes of the General Assembly. Due to the restriction 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 or other stakeholders in the concept papers. However, with your consent, the full text of your contribution will be published in the website of the Conference at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/documents>. I would be grateful if you could send the contribution to the Secretariat (Ms. Ling Wang, wang24@un.org and Ms. Alice Hicuburundi, hicuburundi@un.org) no later than 24 March 2017.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to invite your governments and other stakeholders to provide the Secretariat with suggestions on distinguished experts who could serve as moderators or panelists for the partnership dialogues, as provided for in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 70/303. Selection of the dialogue moderators and panelists will be made through consultations. I would appreciate it if you could communicate your suggestions to the Secretariat (Mr. Chaudhry Iqbal, iqbalc@un.org) no later than 31 March 2017.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Finally I would like to encourage Governments and all stakeholders to announce voluntary commitments that aim to contribute to the implementation of SDG 14 and associated targets.

Procedurally, the voluntary commitments could be registered through the online form available on the Ocean Conference website: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>, or announced in the official meetings of the Conference. A list of voluntary commitments will be produced at the end of the Conference, based on the online registrations and announcements in the Conference. The list will be included into the final report of the Conference.

A guidance note on the voluntary commitments is attached to this letter. For more information on voluntary commitments, please contact the Secretariat (Mr. Ola Goransson, goranssono@un.org).

The Secretariat stands ready to support you in this process.

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



WU Hongbo
Under-Secretary-General
Secretary-General for the UN Conference to Support
the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14