



## UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean

### **Commitment made by the Special Envoy for the Ocean at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya on 26-28 November 2018**

The Ocean is in trouble. Its health has been caught up in a cycle of decline caused by human activities related to climate change, pollution and harmful fisheries practices.

The Ocean's troubles are inextricably linked to regional seas, lakes and rivers. From source to sea, we must address the totality of land-based activities, the environment and sustainable development. In the best interests of people and planet, the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi has cemented this development principle in place.

The global community has a plan to reverse the cycle of decline in which the Ocean has been caught. I refer to the Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and specifically in the case of the Ocean to Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14). Faithfully implemented this plan will indeed restore the health of the Ocean.

Four of the ten targets of SDG14 mature in 2020. To support the implementation of SDG14, the United Nations is preparing the ground for a 2nd UN Ocean Conference to be held in June 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal. The Governments of Kenya and Portugal have generously offered to co-host the conference.

My commitment to the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi is to carry the outcomes of this conference through to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference. In the process, I commit to pushing the international community and its resources towards the achievement of the universally agreed targets of SDG14.

Peter Thomson  
UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean